

2008-10

## DIT News, 1st.-31st. of October, 2008

DIT:Students Union

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## BIKING ABOUT

DIT students spend the summer cycling and saving the world

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## SPORT

DIT's Eamon Rheinisch aiming for London 2012

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OCTOBER 2008

# DIT NEWS

In association with News Soc

## Controversy and confusion surrounds Linen Hall



Second year architecture students fill the sports hall in Linen Hall as they register for their course. The hall and its future has been the topic of controversy for several weeks.

## Future of DIT sports hall still not 100% certain

By Finbarr O'Sullivan  
and Seamus O'Neill

Utter confusion has surrounded the future of the Linen Hall sports hall in Bolton Street campus for the past few weeks.

Students and staff of DIT have been busily trying to save the hall from being converted into a classroom for second year architecture students.

The number of DIT architecture student's has increased by 25% for the 2008/09 academic year. However, this has caused problems in Bolton Street as there may not be anywhere to house the extra students.

Initially, it was proposed that the extra students would be housed in Linen Hall in Bolton Street. Linen Hall is a sports hall and had been used by seven clubs (boxing, wada ryu karate, yoga, archery, aerobics, table tennis and judo) and two societies (break dancing and juggling) for the 2007/08 academic year.

On average, 240 people used the hall every week last year for the various sporting activities.

In August, all clubs and societies using Linen

Hall were informed that the hall would not be available for 2008/09.

This caused numerous problems for many of the clubs and societies, such as the archery club who would not be able to accept any beginners. Insurance would be voided and the clubs and societies affected would have nowhere to store equipment, let alone train.

The boxing club was especially upset by these developments. After having a highly successful year in the Intervarsity's, coupled with Ireland's boxers winning three medals in the Beijing Olympics, boxing appears to be rising in popularity in Ireland.

In protest at DIT's decision, club captain and chairman Brian Daly threatened to suspend all club activities.

Mr. Daly was also disgusted that the DIT boxing club were not consulted at any stage and appalled at the way Linen Hall was handled.

He said, "DIT sports clubs and societies sacrifice

huge amounts of time and energy in order to make DIT a better college and this is no way for them to be treated."

Talks between student representatives, the sport's department, building's office and top management have been ongoing for the past few weeks in an attempt to resolve the issue.

According to Melda Slattery of DIT's Public Affairs office, "The sports hall remains a sports hall. The official position for the moment is that the facility is a sports hall."

This was echoed by the Head of Sport at DIT, Sinead McNulty, who said, "As far as I am aware it is going to stay a sports hall."

"It has been a challenging couple of weeks for the sports department who have been fighting to keep the sports hall, which is one of only a few sporting facilities DIT have and if lost would indeed be a great loss to the college and its students."

"The most difficult thing about this situation has

continued on page 3

PLUS: How satisfied were you with DIT last year? Check out page 5



## New editor at the helm of DIT News

**F**irst of all welcome to the new students who are just starting at DIT and welcome back to those returning.

Yes I know I'm not Katie as people have been pointing out. I don't know what gave it away because I thought we looked identical.

Katie has moved on to pastures new and I am left with the job of carrying on the sterling work she did with the paper last year.

Of course I can only do this with the help of people who want to get involved with the paper and make it as successful as can be.

Those who want to get involved in any way be it writing, subediting, designing, photography etc need to sign up to the News Society during Clubs and Socs Week which begins on the 29th September.

Those who were involved with the paper last year will also have to re-join the society in order to write for the paper.

I am looking forward to hearing all your opinions and ideas on how to make the paper as interesting and successful as possible.

The paper is a valuable outlet to write on topics that interest you and that would be suitable to the rest of the students at DIT. So get involved and start creating a portfolio of your published work.

It's always good to get your name out there and in print so why not start with your college paper. After all it is for the students by the students.

**Seamus O'Neill**  
Editor

### Meet the team...

#### Editor:

Seamus O'Neill  
newssoced@gmail.com

#### Contributors in this issue:

Sinead Keogh, Luc O Cinnseala, Finbarr O'Sullivan, Gary Fox, Rachel Casey, Conor Byrne, Ronan Cannon, Ross McGuinness, Brian Claffey, Caroline Barry, Justin Ronan, Zachary Davison, Evgeniva Em, Aisling Malone, Michael Birt, Aine Balfe, Karla Duarte, Tony Kinlan, Darragh O'Donoghue.

#### Production & design:

Seamus O'Neill

Before I forget I would like to thank everyone who has helped put this issue together. It was an interesting and stressful first issue at times but we got there in the end.

Thank you to all the staff in DIT who I have been in contact with over the past few weeks and thank you also to everyone who contributed stories and ideas for this issue. Keep them coming. There's plenty more issues to go before the year is over.

And now I will be quiet and let you read on. Browse, read or learn off if you wish all the articles contained in this the first issue of DIT News for the academic year '08/'09.

Students new to DIT may want to check out pages 9 and 10 which discuss each campus on DIT and what's good or bad about it and what to do if you bored or just need to get out of the campus.

If you are still looking for palce to live then have a look at our accommodation special on pages 12 and 13.

Returning students catch up on what's been happening in DIT over the summer (or that thing that was supposed to be a summer).

From travel, reviews and ways to save thousands of euros there is plenty in this issue to keep you busy for a few minutes at least!

If you want to get in contact or have any ideas, questions or comments then email newssoced@gmail.com

Look forward to hearing from you.

## Magic flute gets ready to rock the Gleeson Theatre

**H**ours and hours of rehearsals are going into DIT's production of the Magic Flute which will be performed on the newly refurbished Gleeson Theatre on the 3rd, 4th, 8th, 10th and 11th October.

The Magic Flute is one of the most popular operas of all time and the last opera completed by Mozart before his death.

The Magic Flute has everything including the prince, bride to be, a wicked queen, a wise father figure and a comic duo.

A central theme in this opera is that love is the most important thing in life and that with love people can fulfill their dreams.

According to the conductor Willy Halpin, "We cast it last year in November 2007. We rehearsed the music in February 2008 and when we came back after the summer we went into production rehearsals."

Coincidentally as the curtain comes down on the DIT version of the Magic Flute the same opera will only be getting started at the National Concert Hall.

A lecturer in DIT since 1980 Mr. Halpin said, "the opera we are putting on will be made up of high tech visuals done by a Las Vegas designer who is travelling the world with the Queen and Paul Rogers Tour and has also designed the Tina Turner World Tour and tours for Cher."

"We're bringing a rock and roll designer into opera. It's high tech rock and roll lights and design into a Mozart opera."

"We using video installations and video projection and rock and roll style lighting," he said.

Another benefit is that it is cheaper to pay in to see DIT's version of the Magic Flute but you are guaranteed nothing will be cheap about the production itself.

According to Mr. Halpin, "It will be visually and musically spectacular. It will have a touch of Star Wars about it. It'll be a cross between Star Wars and Lord of the Rings."

**Now what else could you ask for!**

## What's hot:

1 Ryanair's once-in-a-lifetime bargains every week. €5 to Budapest? Great! But what's that, free to Dubrovnik the next week? Great! Though how useful a tax-free flight to Sarajevo can be is another matter.

1 Lower Roaming Charges. In a word, deadly. Suddenly that flight to Sarajevo is looking pretty hot.

1 New look java and canteen in Aungier Street - is it all just cosmetic though?!

1 Double Seoige - Bye bye Joe. Failte Sile agus Grainne. Afternoon TV is suddenly worth watching.

1 Free condoms - lads grab those free college goodie bags.

## What's not:

1 The fact that the best dry spell all summer was in the middle of September when nobody could use it. Thanks a million, world.

1 New Facebook. Nobody likes change. A little less mucking around with what we're used to, if you don't mind.

1 The price of concert tickets. You could sell your granny on eBay and you still wouldn't be able to afford a seat in row X at Tina Turner. Well, yeah, obviously you could if your granny was worth some serious dough, but let's not be smart about it. No judging us for being excited about the Tina tour either.

1 College is back that means not long until it gets dark at a ridiculous 5pm

**Let us know what you think**

→ If you have any ideas, stories or pictures, let us know!

Email: newssoced@gmail.com

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It is the policy of the DIT News to correct any inaccuracies as soon as they occur. Any corrections or clarifications will be printed in the next edition of the newspaper.

It is also the policy of the DIT News to offer the right of reply to any person who feels aggrieved by comment or opinion contained within. Please forward any such comments in writing to the Editor.



continued from front page

been the lack of information available. That's been difficult for staff and now for students," she said.

Lack of information and clarity on the sports hall's future has most definitely been a problem. DIT News understands that the Students Union and the Sports Department were informed that the President of DIT, Brian Norton, sent an email saying Linen Hall would remain a sports hall.

However it is clear that this message did not trickle down to those in Linen Hall. When DIT News visited the hall it was clear that changes had been made to the hall with the understanding architecture students would be using it.

Talking to DIT staff in Linen Hall it became apparent that they believed the hall was being handed over to the architecture students. On Tuesday second year architecture students filled the hall as they registered for the new academic year and were told the hall would be their new home for the year.

Talking to the architecture students it became clear they were not happy with the current situation either, which has made them feel not liked within DIT. They were quick to point out that the current upheaval is not their fault.

One architecture student said, "We were moved here because the numbers are big and now were being given stink."

Another student added, "We would prefer to be in the main (Bolton St.) building. We feel isolated here."

As our pictures reveal tables used by architecture students had also been moved into the sports hall and the basketball rings once hanging in the sports

hall had been removed and placed on the floor.

According to Ms. Slattery, "painting and refurbishment of the heating have been carried out in the hall so maybe the basketball rings will be going back up."

"Work did take place on the basis that there might be a change of use but in light of various other calculations - like where it would be possible to transfer sporting activity - nothing was available to meet those needs. So as I understand it the sports hall remains."

It is believed the decision to keep Linen Hall for sporting use was based on financial estimates and the lack of any other suitable alternative available.

According to Ms. McNulty, "We put together an extremely strong case as to why it should stay a sports hall."

The value of sport, physical activity and recreation for students during their college lives is scientifically proven. The value of having the sports hall and sports facilities on campus can't be underestimated and it's essential that we do retain facilities on site."

For Linen Hall to remain in use as a sports hall means the hunt continues for the second year architecture students to find a new place to call home for the year.

DIT News understands it is a possibility that office space in Bolton Street will be converted into classrooms for the architecture students.

As Ms. Slattery explained, "The existing studio is there and the building's office is trying to find additional space for the overflow. There is an anxiety to find extra space for the architecture students that's for sure but where they will be I don't know."



## Flooding happened at worst time possible

By Seamus O'Neill

The Aungier Street campus was damaged when the basement area of the building which houses the Students Union and Societies offices flooded.

A month's worth of rain fell in one day in August which was a terrible month weather wise. The downpours did not help matters when the sump pump failed to kick in and the basement of Aungier Street was flooded in two to three inches of water.

The sump pump is a pump used to remove water that has accumulated in a sump pit. This failed to remove the water that had built up and caused the area to flood.

While no other DIT campus reported any flood damage a DIT source estimated the damage done to Aungier Street to be in the region of €40,000 to €50,000.

the incident could not have happened at a worse time as the students union and the clubs and



societies office were gearing up for the new academic year.

Staff were forced to leave the basement and find temporary office space while the damage was repaired.

Anita Conway Societies Officer said, "While having to pack up the office was hugely inconvenient and simple things like having access to our hard drives, shared folders and landline slowed things up we have managed really well."

"The show must go on as they say and it couldn't be helped what happened it could have been a lot worse. Bill Hennessy was able to secure an office for on a temporary basis which was fantastic and the IT staff helped us get set up again."

"Thanks to James Costello the societies development officer for the Southside and Eoin Kearney a former member of societies staff who spend a few days of packing and unpacking," she said.

The Black Box Theatre which is home to the DIT Drama Society was also damaged. As President of the Drama Society Gavin Mooney explained, "the extent of the damage was only to the floor which is a good thing I guess as that's all that needs repairing."

"It is unfortunate that the whole SU area in Aungier St. was damaged as this has obviously hindered a lot of work being done in preparation for the new academic year," he said.

The floor in the theatre has since been repaired. A job which saw the seating in the theatre have to be ripped out while the new floor was put down.

As Gavin said, "Being one of the biggest societies in DIT the Drama society have a lot planned for the year between performances and workshops, amongst all our other activities and a lot of this will be done in the Black Box Theatre."

"So we are anxious for everything to be ready within the next two weeks as we have performances on during the Clubs'n'Soc's festival."

"At present we are on schedule with everything and have no delays forecast because of the flooding. Any delays or change of plans will be announced though," he said.



# Mumps on the increase among students

**D**IT students are being advised to get vaccinated against mumps after an increase of the illness has been reported among college campuses across Ireland.

Cases of the illness have more than tripled since last year. People under 25 are the most at risk with seven outbreaks of the highly contagious disease already reported in third-level colleges this year.

These outbreaks are occurring due to the fact many young adults aged between 18 and 25 have not had two doses of mumps (MMR) vaccine.

College grounds are subsequently becoming a breeding ground for the transmission of mumps infection.

Dr. Joan O'Donnell, a specialist in public health medicine at the Health Protection Surveillance Centre urged students who may not have been vaccinated to seek medical advice.

"New students who haven't been vaccinated or

who haven't had mumps need to talk to their GP or student health service about getting protected.

"So far this year 459 cases have been reported, 22 of whom were admitted to hospital. Almost 60% of cases have been in 10 to 24 year olds."

MMR protects against measles, mumps and rubella and two doses are needed to protect against infection.

Anyone who is not sure about their vaccination status needs to get another dose to be on the safe side. The vaccine is free.

Vaccines are also available in your relevant student health centres free of charge from 22nd September 2008

DIT Southside Campus Student Health Centre  
Aungier Street 01 402 3051

DIT Northside Campus Student Health Centre  
Bolton St./Linen Hall 01 402 3614

## What is mumps?

Mumps is an acute viral illness that causes fever, headache and characteristically painful swollen salivary glands.

## How is it spread?

It is spread from person to person by coughs and sneezes. It can also be transmitted through direct contact with saliva, including kissing.

## What are the complications?

Generally complications are mild but mumps can cause meningitis, deafness, inflammation of the pancreas, ovaries or testicles. Mumps is infectious from about 6 days before to the 10 days after onset of symptoms.

## How serious is it?

You could be ill enough to miss two weeks from college, studying, taking exams or socialising.

## Mature student support officer on hand to help growing mature student population

**M**y name is Bob Ó Mhurchú and I'm DIT's new Mature Student Support Officer.

I'm a former mature student myself so I've plenty of experience in the field. I've just started here in DIT and I'm eager to get out there and meet any mature students that are attending (or thinking about attending) any of the DIT campuses.

The Mature Student Support Officer position is brand new here in DIT and our mission is simple; to provide support and advice in any way that we can to our growing mature student population.

I'm here to answer any questions that you may have about the course you're taking (or are considering taking), as well as any other queries you have about financial issues, grants, course fees, accommodation, crèche facilities, counselling, workshops, in fact any issues that concern you as a mature student.

It's often difficult leaving the working or family environment to return to full-time education, so I'm here to help with the transition. I'll be holding regular clinics throughout the year in association with Campus Life, covering the areas of time-management, study techniques and much more.

If you have a specific area where you need help, feel free to let me know and I'll do my utmost to assist you!

You can find me at 163-167 Lower Rathmines Road, behind the Music Conservatory, and you can get a hold of me at my office at (01) 402 7658.

You can also drop me a line at [ms.info@dit.ie](mailto:ms.info@dit.ie). I'll be checking in with [boards.ie](http://boards.ie) in the DIT section on a regular basis too; check out the "Know Your DITs" thread.

I'll also be making regular visits to all campuses around the city, so if you can't get to Rathmines, I'll get to you instead. Watch this space!

## Gaeilge ar laethanta saoire

**D**éirtear liom nach fiú gaeilge a fhoghlaim os rud é nach féidir é a úsáid thar lár.

Bhueil, táim ag scríobh inniú chun deireadh a chuir leis an droch bréag seo, an míotas scannallach seo, an aireag maslach seo!

Ta an méad sin gur féidir leat a dhéanamh le ghaeilge is tu thar lear nach bhfuil spas agam anseo chun dul tríd iad uilig ach deanfaigh me iarracht cupla cinn doibh a chuir in iúil díobh.

An ceann is coitianta, is doigh, na an 'maslach runda'. I measc na fíor tradisiún ghaelach(sport, ceoil, damhsa, eisimirce, alcolachas) is i ceann de na cinn is sine.

Thosnaíonn se go simplí, i gconaf leis an líne ceanna, "an fhéiceann tu an chruth ar mo dhuine?" agus ar adhaigh libh! Ag caint os ard is ag gáire faoi strainseirí is iad ag suí in aice leat-ní féidir é sin a dheanamh le do Fhraincis!

Is féidir í a úsáid freisin agus tu ag

siopadóireacht. Seanse mhaith nach beidh morán gaeilge ag aon duine ag obair i ceann de na margadh saor, agus is rud iontach é seo má tá tu ag iarraidh an phraghas a laighdiú.

Ma tá cara agat is féidir bhuir gcuid taicici a phlé díreach in aice leis an déilealaí. Bhain me trial as cupla seachtain ó shin agus ní chréadfá an méad airgead a shabháil mé.

Tá daoine sách siniciúl amach ansin, sa domhain mór, a úsáideann a gcuid teanga chun cuma sách andúchasach a chuir orthu féin.

Úsáideann siad é chun dul i bhféim ar cailíní-no buachailí-agus, caithfear a rá, go n-oibríonn sé (bhueil, sin a chuala mé ar aon nós...). Bhueil is féidir linn é sin a dheanamh freisin!

Ta Fraincis agus Iodailis clóiste cheanna ag gach duine. Rud nua iomláin a bhéadh sna fuaimeanna iar-sheán íseal ceilteach ag titim as do bhéal ghaileach.

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# Computing, printing and catering receive negative reviews from DIT students

President of DIT Professor Brian Norton has convened a working group in response to areas which were highlighted as unsatisfactory in the Student Satisfaction Survey.

The survey was carried out in May by Campus Life and the Retention Office. Over 1200 DIT students completed the full survey and 780 submitted partial responses.

"The purpose of this survey was to take a snapshot of the everyday student experience and examine what DIT is doing well and more importantly what areas need to improve. The overall aim was simple - to work towards providing the best student experience we can, said

Dr Rachel O'Connor of Campus Life.

She added, "The response was fantastic and thanks to all those who took part."

The survey showed that the most important thing for DIT students was the Academic Reputation of DIT.

Other things which influenced their decision to come to DIT were:

- Location and setting of college
- The daily commute to and from college
- Finances and their impact on your ability to fully participate in all aspects college life
- Recommendations from friends and family

The survey highlighted some key issues for

students, such as lack of feedback on assignments; the range and price of catering, and access to computing services.

## Catering

In the catering area, the survey showed that students want a better range and quality of food, and are also concerned about prices.

Dr O'Connor noted, "The building services team and their catering partners have received the data generated from the survey with great interest."

Work is now afoot to provide a more extensive and better range of food in the various outlets.

Aungier Street Java City has been upgraded to serve a wider range of food over the summer, and plans for Bolton St are under way.

A new Catering Control Committee has also been established with Students' Union representation being established, and this group has already been presented with the results of the survey.

## IT support

Another key area was the IT support for students. A massive 57% of DIT students now use a laptop as their main computer and subsequently the survey showed an increased need for Wi-Fi across the campus and more access to printing facilities.

"ICT Services have got the survey results and they're looking to incorporate this new data in their planning for next year. They're also looking at the increased use of laptops, and what that means for the development of Wi-Fi and wireless printing facilities," an ICT services spokesperson said.

Campus Life and the Retention Office will be publishing a report during the first semester outlining the issues raised in the survey and the actions taken to rectify them.

## The Good the Bad and the Ugly!

The results of the student satisfaction survey breakdown like this.

### Non-Academic Issues

'The Good' non-academic factors of the DIT Student Experience are:

1. DIT's city centre location and accessibility
2. DIT's college social life
3. Competence using computers
4. Helpful and approachable Library staff
5. Caring and friendly Support Staff

And 'The Bad'...

1. Access to computers on Campus
2. The lack of easy access to printing facilities' on Campus
3. The lack of Adequate Wi-Fi Zones
4. Current quality and range of food available through the DIT Canteen and Café's
5. The value for money you get from the DIT Canteen and Café's

### Academic Issues

"The Good" academic factors of the DIT student experience are:

1. DIT Students are highly committed to gaining a qualification
2. Students spend plenty of time doing project work outside of class hours
3. All DIT staff (Academic/Support/Tutor) are seen as friendly and approachable
4. Students rated all academic learning criteria above average
5. Students have a high opinion about DIT's Academic reputation

And "The Bad"...

1. Assessment criteria are not understood
2. A quarter of Students report that their jobs interfere with the experience
3. Poor feedback of Academic progress to students
4. Poor interaction between tutors and students on academic issues
5. Prompt feedback on submitted assessments

# Capitation fees - It's your money, use it

Each student pays a capitation fee, some of which goes to fund the Students' Union, and Clubs and Societies.

Ski Club trips, Rag Week, Paintball Tournaments, Sports Scholarships, the Fashion Show, Freshers Week. All this and much much more is funded by your capitation.

College is much more than lectures and labs, so make the most of life and get involved.

When you start in third-level you will pay a non-tuition fee of €825. This fee is used to fund non-academic activities in the college. Much of it goes to covering the cost of administration and student services, but over €400 per student goes to the Student Sport, Recreation and Support (SSRS) Council as capitation.

This group, which has representatives from the Students' Union, Clubs and Societies uses this capitation money to fund student activities on

campus.

SSRS Council reports directly to Governing Body, and is chaired by a member of Governing Body, Damien McDonald.

The money, totalling over €5 million this year, is used to fund:

- Your Students' Union (22%)**
- Sports Clubs and Sports Facilities (18%)**
- Societies and Special Events (8%)**
- Exams and registrations Costs (28%)**
- Medical Services, Chaplaincy (5%)**
- Student Development Fund (14%)**

Over €1.5 million is given out in direct grants to student organisations. So far in 2007/8 the Students' Union have been allocated over €1.1 million, student Societies and special events will receive grants of €227,000. Finally Sports Clubs

will receive direct grants of just over €200,000.

The breakdown of how these grants are allocated are as follows:

Each year the SSRS Council sets aside a portion of the capitation "to provide capital funding for the establishment of sports, societies and student union recreational facilities in a centralised campus (Grangegorman)" and also to develop such facilities in our current locations.

Money from the fund has been used to develop leisure centres in Bolton Street and Kevin Street and was recently used to develop a Black Box Theatre in the basement of Aungier Street. There is currently over €7 million in this fund.

The SSRS Council has two sub-committees. The Sports Committee and the Social and Cultural Committee. All groups that receive funding from SSRS provide regular accounts and the fund is audited by an external auditor.



# Melvyn's moving on



Above: Frank McMahon Director of Academic Affairs presents Fr. Melvyn with a gift on the occasion of his leaving DIT. Right: Frank McMahon, President of DIT Brian Norton and Fr. Melvyn deep in conversation. Below: Colleagues and friends gather to wish Melvyn well on his new appointment.



**A**fter ten years as chaplain with DIT Fr. Melvyn Mullins is moving on to pastures new.

51-year-old Melvyn has had a long and rewarding career with DIT and in the educational system in general. His move to DIT was something he had always wanted to try.

"I had been involved in first and second level and I had a curiosity about the third level situation and it was a good choice and experience.

"I purposely choose to come to DIT because of its structure as opposed to DCU, TCD OR UCD.

"I choose DIT because I was aware of the amount of contact hours which would be taking place between students and staff and also because I was used to the VEC system that there was great and high regard between the lecturer and the student.

"That to me seemed to give rise to a sense of care in this relationship and I thought that's a place where maybe I would like to be.

"I have certainly enjoyed every bit of it and it has been proven to be true," he revealed.

Speaking of his very first days in DIT Fr. Melvyn quickly recalls the experiences he had in those first few days back in September 1998.

"I remember my first days was in Kevin Street. I remember in August 1998 having a tour of Kevin Street and I was struck by how empty it was and I thought it would be buzzing.

"I also remember standing at this stand during freshers week and wondering what am I supposed to be doing here? And the campus manager of the student Bank of Ireland account came over chatting to me and slowly but surely students came over to me.

"But my first experience was very much that stand and wondering what the heck am I doing. But I've certainly pick up a lot and I'm very grateful to Margaret Buckley who was the other chaplain at Kevin St. at the time," he said.

**"I really have enjoyed it.  
I've been involved in  
education all my ordained  
life – 24 years"**

"My first student appeal to the exam board was another memory that sticks in my head, and how daunting this must be for any student," he said.

The past ten years has caused Melvyn to see changes occur in DIT and the way it is run.

"The nature of life in DIT has been constantly changing and not only structurally but from within itself in terms of courses but also in the terms of how DIT situates itself as an institution among all other third level institutions.

"I think that there has been a need to make some

responses across the board in terms of students and how do you attract, maintain and care for students.

"How do you provide that which we do and I think we really do provide what can be seen as one of the best student experiences that they can be afforded," he believes.

Highlights while working as a chaplain have included seeing many people graduate.

"There is nothing as good as attending graduation ceremonies and seeing the students who have assisted each other and seeing the individuals who have had good and bad times and that they come through the four years and that they go forward into a society where they can make a difference. That is very gratifying," he said.

However happy times are not always present. "Over the years I've been privileged to be with students in the greatest times of their lives and also the most challenging times of their lives."

The chaplaincy service has offered a helping hand to people in both good and bad times. The chaplaincy service offers anybody a confidential space, who through the establishment of working and creating relationships with people can connect them into various services within the institute.

However Melvyn has never forgot that he was ordained for the diocese and not just for the DIT.

In his new role he will move to St. Bernadette's Parish in Clogher Road, Crumlin but it's clear to see a big part of his heart will still be in DIT.

**By Seamus O'Neill**





DUBLIN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY presents

**Student Staff Concession - €15**  
**Sat. Oct 4, Fri. Oct. 10 & Sat. Oct. 11**  
**Tickets available from Aungier St. / Bolton St. & Kevin St. DITSU Shops**  
**- Limited Availability -**

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

# The Magic Flute

"All life depends on love alone"

**Conductor:** William Halpin **Director:** Karen Ryker  
Cast and Orchestra from  
DIT Conservatory of Music and Drama

**VENUE:**

Gleeson Theatre,  
DIT Kevin Street Campus,  
Dublin 8.  
[www.dit.ie](http://www.dit.ie)

**DATES & TIME:**

Fri 3rd, Sat 4th, Wed 8th,  
Fri 10th & Sat 11th Oct 2008  
@ 7.30pm

**TICKETS:**

Central Ticket Bureau  
ph: 0818 205 205  
[www.ctb.ie](http://www.ctb.ie) or at  
33 Eden Quay, Dublin 1.





# The Magic Flute

*The Magic Flute* is the last opera Mozart completed, putting the finishing touches to it just before its first performance in Vienna on September 30th, 1791. More than two hundred years later it continues to be one of the most popular of all operas.

On the surface *The Magic Flute* is a simple fairy tale, with a prince and his bride to be, a wicked queen, a wise father figure and a comic duo. One of the central themes is that love is the most important thing in life and that with love, people can fulfil their dreams. The hero and heroine, Tamino and Pamina, dream of achieving enlightenment and initiation into the Brotherhood of the Sun, while Papageno and Papagena dream of having many children together with food to eat and wine to drink. Emphasising this basic tenet in their Act 1 duet, Pamina and Papageno proclaim that 'All life depends on love alone'. The challenge for directors, conductors and singers is to capture the apparent simplicity of this story while exploring its rich symbolism and the layers of meaning underneath.

Some of Mozart's most beautiful and sublime music was written for *The Magic Flute* and this exciting, lavish 21st century production will be a 'must see' for all music lovers.

We invite you to book tickets now for you and your friends.

## Dublin Institute of Technology

Dublin Institute of Technology has a strong reputation in the visual and performing arts, business and media, tourism and food, science and health, engineering and the built environment. While each of these disciplines has its own distinctive expression, often it is the interaction between them that can be the catalyst for creating something uniquely beautiful. This production of *The Magic Flute*, which is performed by the students of the Conservatory of Music and Drama, is made possible through collaboration across all areas of DIT drawing on the diverse and creative expertise of students and colleagues.

For further information about any of our activities please contact [conservatory@dit.ie](mailto:conservatory@dit.ie) or visit [www.dit.ie](http://www.dit.ie)

Design by Deirdre Spain, DIT (BA Visual Communications - Year 2)

Ticket prices from €15 - €25

Family tickets available  
(includes booking fee)

**Central Ticket Bureau:**

ph: 0818 205 205

[www.ctb.ie](http://www.ctb.ie) or at

33 Eden Quay, Dublin 1.



# My DIT

## Rathmines Rd.

**R**athmines is a vibrant town located on the Southside of Dublin. It is the hub of all aspects of student life including accommodation. There are lots of things to see and do in Rathmines, so much so that you will be spoilt for choice.

### Shopping

Rathmines is well catered for in the supermarket department with Tesco, Dunnes stores in the Swan shopping centre, Aldi and the Oriental emporium.

### Pint

If you're looking for a quick pint, a table quiz, some funky music, the hottest food in town and friendly staff then Toast is the flavour of the year for you and your friends.

### Hungry

Whether you're a fan of Italian, Thai, Indian or some good home made burgers Rathmines will have you spoilt for choice. The recently opened Manifesto serve lovely pizzas, Saba provides fantastic healthy take-away Thai dishes while Monsoon provide the best Indian dishes around and Joe Burger is the new hot spot for delicious organic burgers. If you looking for a cheap lunch and the very best chips in Dublin then a trip to Leo Burdocks is a must. They always have great deals such as 2 cheese burgers for the price of 1, so there's no chance you'll be hungry!!

**Bored?** Then check out the library in Rathmines. It has a great selection of books, dvds and Cds to keep you occupied and they also run a film club which shows a film for FREE on the 1st Friday of every month. The DIT Conservatory of Music



and

Drama located beside the Rathmines Library regularly holds music concerts and drama productions so keep an eye out for the latest events on the DIT website.

**Music lovers** head keep an eye out for the Rathmines festival -which occurs annually in spring time. If you're a fan of Jazz music then a trip to Slattery's on Friday nights is worthwhile or if you like the old Irish traditional session then Tuesday nights at Mother Reilly's pub and Sunday afternoons in Rathmines Inn will keep you entertained.

**Keep fit** after all those nights out and check out the gyms in Rathmines - Fitness Together on Leinster Road and Shapes Fitness for ladies located in the Swan centre. The local swimming pool is currently under renovations. If you're a fan of walking, then the city centre is a 15 minute walk.

**Bus** Rathmines is served with an many buses to town such as the 14, 14a, 15a, 15b, 15c, 65, 65a, 74, 74a, 83, 128 and 142.

### Aine Balfe

Music education student at DIT Rathmines.

## Bolton Street

**Location** Its located in the city centre, a 5minute walk from O'Connell St.

**Advice** Best word of advice for 1st years is to get involved in Clubs and Societies, it's the best way to get to know people and is great craic! I started a new society last year, the freestyle soccer society and ended up going to Africa with a few members so it's definitely worth your while gettin involved.

**Drinks** Bodkins is a good place to go with a few of your classmates for a pint and also the Woolshed beside the cinema is good if you're lookin for food aswell as a few pints!!

**Fun** The SU is usually good craic or if you wanna just chill then the couches are good to just lounge about!

**Bored** If you get bored between lectures or you have a long break, head to the cinema or even head to the gym, there's a great gym in Smithfield.

**Scared? Don't be.** Bolton Street itself can be a bit scary at first with all the stairs and messed up room numbers but it's great because the classes are usually small enough so you get to know everbody and you can get on with your lecturers, most of mine are sound heads...and it's good to get on with them as you will probably need a few extensions on handing in assignments and shizzle.

**Get involved** Try to do as much as possible in college to get the most out of your time there! Studying is only a little part of your college life so don't stress about it!!

**Michael Birt Mechanical Engineering student in Bolton Street.**



Who best to ask about what each DIT campus has to offer than the students already there. Here we give you the important info you need to know, like where to go for a pint with your new found friends and how to keep yourself occupied during the hours between lectures!

## Mountjoy Square

**Best memory** our class trip over Easter break to Cahore Co. Wexford with nine of us in a caravan.

Swimming in the freezing cold, getting slagged over buying broccoli for dinner, humongous bottles of champagne for 6 euro and laughing at the girls from Dublin screaming when there were cows on the road.

**Good nights out** Freshers week, especially the Fresher's ball, guarantee some brilliant nights out but for the rest of the time Redz, 21's and the Purty Kitchen all do great cheap student nights. Alternatively you can have a few cozy drinks in Hogans or Doyle's, head to a gig in Whelan's or check out the live music and the strange but wonderful drinks in the Porter House Templebar. Try the Purple People Eater! The George and Dragon are great when your sick of men and just want to dance and drink cocktails.

Coppers on the other hand is perfect when you want to be surrounded by men. Also no matter how much you told yourself you wouldn't, you'll be guaranteed to have done a spot of river-dancing by the end of the night.

**Food** For times when you haven't spent all your money on drink or rent, Hill 16 around the corner from Mountjoy Square does really nice chicken goujons, chips, pasta carbonara and even vol-au-vents..oooh fancy. It's also good if you just fancy a pint!

**Things to do** If you have a gap between lectures at lunch time head to DIT Cahel Brugha St. for a full dinner and a huge desert, then burn it off by trying on beceaaautiful dresses for 'ladies of a certain age' in Clerys. Another top tip is to bring your own tea bags to college and just pay for the hot water, you'll be saving yourself millions!

**Advice** I would definitely recommend joining at least one society,

I set up the Reject Soc in my first year of Fine Art and was involved in everything from nudie paint fighting for the rag week naked calender, pushing a bed around town in our pyjamas and tiara's, "cultural" weekends away, pole dancing, quizzes, fancy dress parties and endless ridiculous nights out.

**Wanna talk** Hopefully you'll be in the course you want and love but if you have any doubts don't be afraid to talk to someone and get advice. I did two and a half years of Fine Art before switching to Social Care. It really makes such a difference when you enjoy what you are studying and can see yourself doing it when you graduate. It's not worth it to be worrying about it on your own, go down and chat to Mammy Mary in the students union or someone from career guidance or even come and find me.

**Aisling Malone Social Care student.**





### Cathal Brugha Street

Here are some tips for you, freshers, from the Cathal Brugha site.

**Nothing to do?** You are joking, go to Botanic Garden, Guinness factory, National Gallery, watch a nice movie. IFI cinema offers a list of independent movies from different countries. Do it with a crowd or with couple of your friends.

**Where to find these friends?** Join the societies! There are lots of them, over 40. If you want to do some extraordinary things SU will support you. Just do it! Last year I set up theatre musical society and spent most of time hanging around with other students attending art events, theatre and other musical events.

**Best memory** of my last year relates to Student Union events. Rag week activities were mad as we fundraised money by jumping from a 40 foot cliff, wearing butterfly costumes and running on the streets of Dublin.

**Food** It is sacred! Eat healthy and don't try to loose weight as student life is a long term

diet. If you are hungry go to Cathal Brugha canteen. It has amazing and friendly staff, delicious food, affordable prices and pictures on the wall. Out of college, eat at O'Briens, try a seasonal soup in Westin, have a coffee in Insomnia.

**Pint!Pint!Pint!** There are millions of them around the city, just make the right choice with the pub. Grogans, Cassidy's and Brogans have reasonable prices and they are full of Dublin charm.

Of course, a sound mind in a sound body. Keep yourself in a perfect shape; go to gym or sign up for salsa, modern, hip hop classes in dance school like Thunder Academy, School of Dance.

Stand out of the crowd and have fun! Be crazy and innovative.

**Evgeniya Em**  
**Event**  
**Management**  
**student.**



### Temple Bar

**Home** to the photography students and conveniently located near the National Photographic Archive and Gallery of Photography in Meeting House Square.

**Nightlife...** It's Temple bar. It's possible you may never want to leave it and go anywhere less. With so much on you will never be bored. Waste away the time between lectures by grabbing a coffee and spend some quality time people watching and play the game guess where the tourists are from!

Listen or watch the many buskers that adorn the streets of Temple Bar or sample some live music at the Temple Bar Music Centre.

**Food** If you're in a rush grab a slice of pizza from Apache or check out The Czech Inn and sample some of their foreign beers as well filling up on food.

**Advice** join as many clubs and societies as possible and find friends outside of the classroom environment. Also shop around for the best places to eat and drink as Temple Bar can have tourist prices and you don't want to get ripped off now do you!

### Kevin Street

**Highlight:** Starting the Kevin St/Aungier St Gamesoc. At the start of the year we all went around looking for the college Gamesoc and discovered there wasn't one, so we started one! Also turning to the people sat next to me and introducing myself has gotten me a group of very good friends so that's up there too.

**Clubs /Socs:** The Gamesoc obviously. If you have anything to do with a computer lab in your course, or use a computer for anything at all, join the Netsoc! Don't put it off because after their initial appearance at the start of the year they're impossible to find, but the benefits are fantastic. They're also a great help for any Computer Science related stuff! The Gamesoc has been a blast, from the start of the year we kicked off doing events in LAN Cafes and the Xbox Live Centre, we had competitions and nights out, and we even got sponsored by Electronic Arts. Honestly, we're a blast, I can't imagine being in Kevin ST and not being in the Gamesoc Hint Hint!

**Nightlife:** The Cornerstone or Shine as it is called now, is a lovely place with very friendly staff and the pint is alright too. It's not usually

very full during student drinking times (Depending on your personal morals this can start at 12:00 in the afternoon or any hour after that), and isn't particularly expensive. It's also practically next door to Kevin ST. If you're looking for nightclubs, Tripod is nearby and is great, and in regards to music, Whelans is one of the best venues with some of the best alternative music you'll see and hear, they release a booklet listing all of their shows at the start of each month, and gigs are usually maximum 20 Euro. Eamonn Dorans is also nearby albeit gigs there are very random in quality of both the sound engineers and the artists performing. The Crawdaddy is nearby (Next door to Tripod), and albeit cramped, is very good.

**Munchies:** The O2 Shop nearby is ok for a roll. The Student Union shop in the campus conveniently sells Jolt Cola, which is a necessity for any Comp Sci student who's seen the movie Hackers, and you can always walk to Aungier ST for food too. Grafton St. is nearby with Mcdonalds, Burger King, and Captain Americas (Food and cocktail bar) too.

**Pint:** Whelans has one of the best pint of Guinness within 5 minutes walk. Shine has a decent pint too.

**Bored between lectures?:** Talk to the Gamesoc! Honestly we're always up to something, if it's playing Guitar Hero on a projector or playing Puzzle Bobble on arcade sticks, or even just sitting around playing games on laptops, we're always doing something, usually in the Snackery.

**Gym:** As a computer science student, I obviously know nothing about.. Kidding. There's a decent gym in the college and a swimming pool that is more than adequate.

**Transport:** The 19A bus, if it's on your route, goes straight to the door of Aungier ST and hence is right next to Kevin ST. There's also a LUAS that goes to the top of Grafton ST which again is less than 5 minutes walk from both campuses.

**Advice:** Get involved. You only get what you put into college, and that applies to both your course and your social life, if you choose to sit and wait for societies and events to come for you, it won't happen, same as the way your college grades won't come to you and give you an A+. Don't worry about being shy, everyone in Kevin St. is a crackpot, but a friendly one at that. Your lecturers and SU are also very approachable

**Zachary Davison**

### Aungier Street

**Located** at the top of Aungier Street. Minutes walk from Temple Bar and Grafton Street. Serviced by the 16, 16a, 19, 19a and 83 bus. Also the green luas line is minutes walk away at Stephens Green.

**Bored** between classes. Play pool or table tennis in the SU in the basement or chill out on the couches. Go window shopping along Grafton Street or see the many acts busking on that same street - from the talented to the talentless, they can be funny.

**Cuppa** try java in the college or head out to Insomnia or Fresh on Wexford Street.

**Food** If you are tired of the canteen food then try Solas on Wexford Street or Govindas on George's Street or chips from Angelino's.

**Nightlife** Whelans and the Village on Wexford Street are great for gigs and good times. Hogan's on George's Street, Dakota on South William Street and Sinnotts at South King Street. Get your dancing shoes on at D2, Coppers and the Gaicity.

**Join** as many clubs and societies as you can. Drama, Fashion, Breakdancing, etc there is so many to choose from so sign up during clubs and societies week from 29th Sept. - 2nd Oct.





# DIT SU - who's who and what's it all about

**D**IT Students' Union offers support regarding every aspect of student life. Our Officers & Staff can answer any questions you have from accommodation to personal health.

For specific academic enquiries, we have a dedicated Vice President - Tracey Flinter & Director of Academic Affairs - Mary Scally who will answer questions you have, or direct you to those that can help.

We work to ensure that all DIT students - our members - receive the standard of education that they are entitled to.

DIT Students' Union is the largest Students' Union in Ireland. Every one of the 21000 plus students of DIT automatically becomes a member of the Union on registration.

## DIT STUDENTS' UNION GET STUCK IN!

College is not just about the lectures and exams so explore all the possibilities and make the most of your time in DIT. The

Students' Union is a hub of activity as well as the place to ask for information on just about anything. There are opportunities for you to be a part of any or all of it so GET STUCK IN !

**Dermot Julien**  
Vice President Services and Trading

Dermot is responsible for organising your events this year. He also looks after issues surrounding the facilities of DIT.

**Tracey Flinter**  
Vice President Academic and Student Affairs

Other than racing around sorting out everyone's problems and talking a mile a minute Tracey also wants to save the world and starving babies.

She is the new Bob Geldof.

There's no end to this Meath girls talents. Yes she's from Meath don't be fooled by the Dublin accent.

DIT Students' Union aims to represent and defend its student members and their interests at local, national and international levels on matters primarily relating to their education and welfare and to protect and further their rights as citizens. In addition it shall promote Clubs, Societies and other non-academic activities and shall provide a range of services for its members.

**Martin Dunne**  
President and main man in the DIT students union

If you see a tall dark haired guy with glasses it might be him. Shout Martin at him, if he responds it's him.

If you have a problem or question he will help you out.





By Seamus O'Neill

**F**or a long time coming to DIT proved a hassle, in terms of finding suitable accommodation near your chosen campus.

With no dedicated campus accommodation students ever year were put in the stressful position of hunting for accommodation that was of a reasonable standard, price and in a decent location to where they were studying.

However things have started to change as DIT try and make the big move to college as easy and stress-free as possible.

This year DIT decided to block book 1000 bed spaces for DIT students in several city centre locations around the city.

According to Deirdre Corcoran of the Student Sports Recreation and Support Department, "So far this year most of them are booked at this stage.

"We have reserved bookings of up to a thousand spaces and most of them are gone at this stage."

As Deirdre explains the decision to block book the accommodation came after an initial pilot process last year.

"We had a pilot process of reserved bookings last year but we increased in substantially this year. Last year reserved accommodation was a success with accommodation being snapped up within a couple of weeks.

"We made arrangements which external providers, such as purpose built student accommodation. They would have had some of our students anyway but we reserved booked them in advance so that there would be accommodation there for DIT students," she said.

The decision to increase the block booked accommodation this year comes from the simple fact DIT does not have its own campus accommodation.

This is at a great loss for DIT when compared to other Dublin colleges and universities who can offer their students dedicated campus accommodation.

"There was a problem. We have no campus accommodation to offer our students, Deirdre said.

"What we had here was an information system containing a database of landlords and people who wanted to offer accommodation.

"The idea was to see could be block book with other people out there. It worked extremely well. It was done on a small scale last year so it was completely enlarged this year to much greater numbers," she said.

This is the only way DIT students can be guaranteed accommodation until such a time that campus accommodation is created but that will not happen until the move to Grangegorman.

As Deirdre points out making sure students are looked after is very important, especially those students who have come from overseas.

"We also want to look after our international students and our Erasmus students and if we can provide accommodation, that will add to the attraction of coming to DIT.

"Naturally enough they are coming to a strange country and if they can go

to an institution that has accommodation and they can book it in advance it will be very positive," she said.

Some have noted the cost of the accommodation that DIT has reserved as being expensive. An example of this is the Herberton apartment complex where shared rooms were going for €128 and a single room for €190, excluding bills.

However Deirdre is quick to point out the standard of these apartments is very high.

"You should see the apartments, their brand new state of the art, beautifully landscaped and have all the utilities needed there.

"It was built for the private sector so it was built to a high quality. It isn't hugely out of sync with the other providers we have and everything is provided including internet access, study area and we are putting in a residential assistant who will liaise with the students and they will report back to DIT," she said.

#### The future

Speaking about the future and DIT's plans to create its own campus accommodation Deirdre explains that there will be dedicated on campus accommodation for students when DIT moves to its new home in Grangegorman.

Outlining the possible accommodation that will be available to students in Grangegorman Deirdre said:

"It will be purpose built for students. Single rooms is what students want. So normally it will be four to six single rooms with a shared living space. It's estimated that the accommodation when up and running

will be able to cater 1,500 – 2,000 students."

#### Advice

Until then Deirdre has some simple advice to students who may still be looking for a place to call their home.

"Keep looking, tell all your friends and family you're looking for a place to live because word of mouth is very important. Don't rush into anything and check the accommodation before you book it or sign a lease," she said.

#### Top Tips

If you are still searching for that perfect place, the following will help you find that place to call your own.

Check the noticeboards in your Students Union and around college, The Evening Herald (best days Mon & Thur), local area papers & classified ads. Some Letting Agents/Real Estate Agents consider students. We have a list of those who do.

Also click on [www.daft.ie](http://www.daft.ie) and [www.findahome.ie](http://www.findahome.ie) and [www.ditsu.ie](http://www.ditsu.ie) where you will find a list of available accommodation and top tips so you won't need up in a place that smells of cat pee and small enough that you couldn't swing one.

**"We had a pilot process of reserved bookings last year but we increased in substantially this year. Last year reserved accommodation was a success with accommodation being snapped up within a couple of weeks"**



# USI and Housing Minister launch rent book

The Union of Students in Ireland and the Minister for Housing Michael Finneran recently launched the USI Rent Book 2008 in Trinity College Dublin.

This Rent Book which has been produced by the USI and sponsored by Daft.ie, will provide third level students with all of the relevant information they need on any accommodation issues they may face throughout the college year.

The guide is an excellent resource to students as it gives details of what their legal obligations are in regard to renting accommodation.

Only 9% of students can get purpose built student accommodation which means that the majority of students live in private rented accommodation.

The Rent book also lists a number of support organisations and services that are available to them.

Welcoming the publication, Minister Finneran said:

"I am sure that it will be of use not only to the student body in Ireland, but also to the wider private rental sector."

Copies of the rent books will be made available to all students at colleges throughout the country.

USI President Shane Kelly said:

"Many students experience difficulties with their landlords throughout the college year. This rent book brings together all your rights as a tenant and will act as a guide should difficulties arise."

"The average student will spend almost €3,500 per year on rent alone. When such large sums of money are changing hands, it is important that students record these transactions in case any difficulties arise," Shane said.

He added, "Students need to know their rights and this book brings together all of those rights, and outlines all of the do's and don't's of renting accommodation."



## No bed of Roses

**So you're in 1st year and newly moved into your student dream palace, finally out from under your parents' thumb after many years of waiting?**

**We couldn't be happier for you, but Sinéad Keogh has some words for the wise.**

**I**t all seems so wonderful when you finally get through the endless 'phone calls, Daft searches and viewings and find a place to live.

The going is tough for students and at times it seems like any corner of a room with a few blankets in it would be better than the commute from far flung counties to DIT.

There was probably a time when you considered ringing the property manager of your granny's nursing home just because it was on a Quality Bus Corridor, and maybe the only thing that stopped you was the mandatory incontinence pants rule.

By now you know that Dublin is a haystack, accommodation is the proverbial needle – and people will fight you for it like crack-starved whores.

It might seem like all your prayers are answered when you finally rent that room, but house-sharing is a whole other kind of evil, and you'd do well to keep the following in mind.

Your Mammy told you never to talk to strangers and here you are living with a gang of them. Be vigilant, my friend:

- The worst thing you could ever do would be to allow all of the household bills to be put in your name.

Nobody else will ever feel obliged to pay them, and the debt collection company will guffaw down the phone at you when they call to enquire about the latest gas bill debacle.

- That's not a welcome on the mat – it's your housemate's girlfriend's puke and no, you shouldn't take pity and clean it up – that would make you a mat yourself.

When the place gets wrecked, as it inevitably will, he who held the party will almost definitely not be bothered with fixing the damage – you can remedy this by seizing all of their food and clothing and holding it hostage.

- Somebody, at some point, will move their boyfriend or girlfriend in and expect everybody to be okay with it. Tell them where to get off – namely, the other person's house for a change.

You don't really need to be friends with the sort of person who runs a B&B out of their box room anyway.

- Any more than 3 people needing a shower in the morning equates with the pain experienced at a fairly deep level of hell when there's only one shower to be used.

Learn to live with your own personal musk – or be Rota Wench. (Rota Wench is the person who decides that lists and schedules for cleaning and such can solve all house problems – you hate her).

- Don't get too attached to your food – people will steal it because they are poor and hungry. Never leave anything that isn't Lidl, Aldi or Tesco Own Brand in the fridge or you can consider it as eaten as Steve Irwin.

- Prepare a list of excuses to dish out every time your parents table the idea of visiting. Nobody who lives in cleanliness could ever accept the crusty hovel that is your home.

They will judge you and they won't accept that it's the best your rent could get – avoid.

- Don't sleep with your housemate. Just don't. The boys will do the "Rachel clothed, Rachel naked, Rachel clothed, Rachel naked" thing while

opening and shutting their eyes every time you meet in the hallway after.

The girls will become awkwardly attached to you and think you connected – and living with the broad who stalks ya ain't so fun. The reactions of both genders are to be avoided through abstinence if need be.

- There is a reason why this motley crew needed a 1st year housemate to fill the last room and aren't living with their friends – there's probably something terribly off about each one of them. With the boys it's usually their feet.

- Take comfort in the fact that next year you'll be a 2nd year, you'll be able to look for accommodation earlier and thus get to live somewhere slightly less crap with only one rat instead of the entire rodent family.

**"Your Mammy told you never to talk to strangers and here you are living with a gang of them. Be vigilant, my friend"**



With going to college being a costly business the last thing you want is for your laptop to be nicked or damaged, so cover yourself. Over the summer Rachel Casey investigated the cost of insuring your laptop - that's of course if you can find suitable cover - something Rachel found quite difficult.

Laptops are becoming a staple in the diet of any Irish student. At the beginning of their first year, a laptop will be the next purchase after accommodation, with the hope that a fifteen by eleven inch machine with 2.4GB of memory will see them comfortably through three or four years of constant work.

Be it a high spec machine or basic model, prices can range from the affordable to the outright extraordinary, depending on one's requirements. Add on the price for software and external hard drives and the costs soon build up.

It is for this very reason that students hope their laptop will last for the next four years; but inevitably theft, systems breakdowns, smoothie spills on the key board and drops happen to the most careful.

Given their popularity, it would be correct to assume an Irish financial institution would, at this stage, have put a package on the market which caters for insuring students possessions, the most expensive and valuable of which is often a laptop.

Depending on their college course, a typical student will require different things from a laptop. An arts student may find a basic Dell Inspiron 1525 laptop with 120 GB harddrive for €469 from [www.dell.ie](http://www.dell.ie), plus Microsoft Office Standard 2007 for €76.95 from [www.software4students.ie](http://www.software4students.ie); completely adequate.

However, for a course such as architecture, where after first year the majority of drawing work is done using a computer aided design programme, such as CAD or Vectorworks, a high spec laptop, with large memory for faster processing, is a must. Options include a Dell XPS M1710 laptop for €1,199; or a laptop from the Sony Vaio AR series, such as a VGN-AR71M laptop for €1,509, or for €2,709 a VGN-AR71ZU.

A call to the Stephen's Green Sony centre in

May, revealed that Sony do not offer any type of insurance cover against theft and accidental damage on their laptops.

When asked for any suggested insurance cover, the salesperson was adamant that putting a laptop on home insurance would suffice. He said that the price would be between thirty to forty euro. It was pointed out to him at the beginning of the conversation that the laptop would be used by a student away from home, carrying it onto a college campus on a daily basis.

Dell computers confirmed that they offer accidental damage and theft cover on their laptops. For the Dell Inspiron 1525 laptop, advertised on the dell website for €469 over the weekend of May 23rd to 25th 2008, one year cover will cost the private buyer €89. For two years of cover the price is €149.

The salesperson, Ayesha, also pointed out that if only one year cover is purchased, Dell will contact you towards the end of that year, asking if you would like the cover to be extended. A major selling point is that if you do drop your laptop, Dell will cover it for that damage incurred.

That seems good and well, but it restricts you to one supplier and one computer operating system. Apple macs are fast growing in popularity, thanks to an aggressive advertising campaign, the phenomenal success of the iPod, and impressive engineering. O2 are authorised resellers of Apple goods in the Republic, or a laptop can be ordered online at <http://store.apple.com/ie>.

The O2 store in the Dundrum Shopping Centre confirmed over the telephone that if one was to purchase a apple laptop in their store, they would not sell you insurance. In fact, O2 have stopped selling insurance cover for any laptops they sell. The salesperson again suggested placing a laptop on house insurance as an alternative.

Surprisingly the O2 website advertises a product called Phonecover insurance through Eagle Star to protect against "loss, theft and damage of your mobile phone". It costs as little as €6 a month for Speakeasy customers, offering a phone replacement value of up to €400.

However, mobile phones are considerably cheaper than laptops, prone to damage and theft to a far greater degree than a €1,000 laptop, and purchased by a far wider customer base. Plus, because of their cost and personal value, people take far better care of their laptops than they do their mobile phones.

Apple offer its customers an extended warranty through their AppleCare Protection Plan. For €449 warranty repair is extended for three years from

date of purchase. However, nothing on the Apple website indicated that theft is included in the Plan.

The demand for standalone insurance for laptops is strong, if forum websites are anything to go by. Websites such as [www.askaboutmoney.com](http://www.askaboutmoney.com) and [www.boards.ie](http://www.boards.ie) have many a discussion where numerous participants want to find out where they can buy insurance.

A google search brought up several websites which showed the contrast between what residents in the U.K. can benefit from, compared to their Irish counterparts. The Royal Bank of Scotland offers a Student Possessions Insurance policy, which covers laptops up to a insured limit. An online quote from JSinsurance, a U.K. site, offered laptop insurance for one year, with extended worldwide coverage for £225, for a laptop at a value of £2,000. They too offer student possessions cover.

Laptops Direct is a predominant U.K. website, but also serves customers from Ireland. Under the heading of Product Categories, quotes for laptop insurance can be obtained. By clicking on the Irish flag/euro symbol at the top right hand side of the site, all insurance prices are displayed in euro.

However, a call to the Dublin landline number advertised on [laptopsdirect.ie](http://laptopsdirect.ie) revealed that the company does not offer any insurance policy to customers in Ireland; despite the misleading advertisement of products in euros.

Hibernian, Axa, Eagle Star, and Quinn Direct will not cover laptops used by students under their home insurance policy. According to one salesperson from Axa, laptops are deemed to be too much of a liability, with a high risk to theft because they are moved about too many different locations.

Persons from the Financial Ombudsman Office and Insurance Information Service both suggested placing a laptop on one's house insurance.

A solution seems to be in the offering from Simply Mortgages. Student advisor Sharon Hughes, from DIT Angier Street Student's Union, advises students to take out their "House Contents" policy, which covers personal possessions up to €25,000. This policy is not tied to any property, "it just covers your stuff", as Sharon puts it, ideal for students who live in rented accommodation.

However, as emphasised over the phone by Meave, a saleswoman from Simply Mortgages, it is not a students possession policy: you will need to be employed to avail of it, even if it is just part time work. In addition, your place of residence will need to have a working alarm installed.

But most importantly a laptop will be covered, with a payout of up to €1,300 for any single item, with accidental damage covered under the policy too. Sharon, who has been buying this policy for the past three years, cannot recommend it highly enough, particularly with the ease involved when making a claim. One years coverage ranges from €157 up to €173.

It's not perfect, but it seems to be the best offer available to students in Ireland right now.

\*prices and info quoted is correct as of 23rd May 2008



# Living in fear of fees

The debate over college fees has been dominating headlines recently and will continue to do so for some time yet. With everyone seeming to be against the idea of college fees, is there anything to be gained from re-introducing them. Surely not? *Sinead Keogh* weighs up the options.

In June, just over 53,000 students sat the Leaving Certificate. The CAO received a record 68,000 applications this year.

18,000 of those are made up of people moving over from FETAC courses and mature students.

That leaves you with 50,000 out of a possible 53,000 Leaving Certificate students applying for a third level course in 2008.

It's excellent in one way that the education message seems to have got through. Only, it seems that applying to 3rd level has become just another means of following the crowd. It would be surprising if 50,000 Leaving Cert students actively wanted to go to college. Surprising because you can remember exactly how many people in your year in school never cared or did their homework and how many of them couldn't wait to leave school.

Availability of courses at 3rd level continues to expand to meet the growing need. Deadly, says you. Not so much, no.

Back in the day, before 'free fees', very bright people did, reprehensibly, miss out on college. However, abolishing tuition has only done its job to an extent. Opening the door to education for all has made all feel like they should avail of it, which isn't necessarily the case. Plenty of people are stuck in degrees they don't like and still more drop out. So what has paying fees got to do with all of that?

Nobody wants a return to a situation where going to college is based on how much money your parents have in savings. To be fair to the government, that's not what's being proposed either. Minister O'Keeffe tells us he wants an audit of the 3rd level institutions. It's not surprising if you've been through one recently. Some would-be institutions would be fairing better under the stewardship of a blind monkey. The university system is looking a little shambolic around here and those funding it ought to be asking where all their money is going.

At the same time, universities are dealing with greater numbers of students and budget cuts every year – the worst coupling known to man since Woody Allen married his daughter. They've been asked to reduce their staff bills by 3% this year, and they're already running at huge deficits.

It comes down to this: what students want is an education system that provides competently and adequately for their needs so that they can emerge into the jobs market as real contenders.

For a few years now, we have been doing well because we have more Science and Engineering graduates than other people (the rate was almost twice the EU and OECD average in 2007). It's going to be difficult for that to continue if investment in education stagnates due to economic problems.

While agreeing that gaining international status for our universities is eminently desirable, it does seem that more funding for them isn't going to magically free itself up anytime soon. So take a look at the fee option.

In 2006, there were about 26,000 students in receipt of grants. That's about one eighth. Now let's assume that if an average of 1-in-8 students are eligible for assistance then an average of 1-in-8 students definitely isn't going to be asked to pay fees out of their own money. What about the other 7?

The cut off point for a full maintenance grant is 39,760 euro if you have 4 dependant children or less. It increases to 47,430 euro if you have 8 dependant children or more. You can earn up to 47,205 euro (4 dependant children or less) or 56,320 euro (8 dependant children or more) and still get 25% maintenance.

The issue here becomes that there is a view that the income thresholds should be higher, that PAYE workers get the raw end of the deal and that grants should be catering for more people anyway – fair point.

Putting the issue of fees on the table puts education at the centre of national debate. The problems in education are normally always highlighted by the student side.

It seems that in student politics it is always about saying their agenda is never given attention and never about taking advantage of the merits of the agenda that is already there. Yes, the reintroduction of fees does have the potential to go horribly, horribly wrong. The fact is, a rather foolproof system needs to be developed. The means testing for fee paying would want to encompass an income threshold a lot higher than the one for maintenance grants. The system of fees would need to be accurately costed according to award and institution. There should probably be some sort of look at altering fees due for students who also having to contend with moving out of home for college. It would seem right that there would be assurances for students already within the system that they aren't suddenly going to be hit with a big bill that they didn't sign up for.

The Union of Students in Ireland (USI) will tell you that tuition fees create disincentive toward college among lower income families and that students who work part time (15 hours being the amount cited) are less likely to get 1sts in their degrees. The fact is; students are working all those part time hours already because grants are insufficient. By accepting that the education agenda is on the table in this guise, they can do more for low income students by accepting that a fee hit for high income students isn't such a tragedy.

The fact is that yes, tuition fees do have a

disincentive effect – which is probably increased by all of the bad press they're given by, amongst others, student lobby groups. Maybe if students themselves espoused the merits of such systems while also insuring through engagement with the relevant bodies that genuinely disadvantaged people were not affected, tuition fees wouldn't get a bad name.

The fact is that our universities are not of the standard that they should be and unfortunately with money matters as they are, the government can't afford to give them a dig out. Who wants a free education that isn't worth the paper it's printed on?

The fact is that by paying for your education, you become the master of it. You gain more rights of redress when your university make a mess of things and you become deserving of a standard that has been lacking.

The fact is that nobody wants to see middle class families take another financial hit. The way to deal with this is to recognise that the money needs to come from somewhere and there are far less appealing options. Take a look at the ways in which this can really play out.

In one scenario, maybe public outcry achieves its aim and Batt O'Keeffe gets back in his box. Sub-standard grants, sub-standard universities and sub-standard prospects after graduation remain unchanged.

In another, because student lobby groups choose to deal with the proposal through blanket protest (as in 100% protest, not like Long Kesh style blanket protest or anything) the government implement their plan without proper consultation, inviting the potential for huge mess-upper and dark days for the middle classes who suddenly can't even afford Furniture Making in Letterfrack anymore.

Or maybe student groups take a look at what's being proposed and propose other good things in tandem. They get the income threshold as high as they can for fee payment and as high as they can for grant payment. They work out a good system for all. Universities improve, degrees are worth more, we maintain this knowledge based economy that we need. Some people are paying for college, sure, but the fact that a lot of people have been paying for private 2nd level education is indicative of the fact that some people can afford to.

We can reject this all we want, and it does have the potential to go wrong, but that's all the more reason to engage with it and steer it in the right direction. It could be that the reintroduction of fees will never happen, but the least we can do is let it inspire debate rather than flat out rejection because it's clear that something needs to be done.

**What's your opinion? Email and tell us what you think!**  
newsoced@gmail.com



## Break it down now

The Breakdance Society was first set up a number of years ago by DIT student Dave Reynolds.

As quite a unique and unusual society, Dave wanted to spread his knowledge and love of breakdancing and get others involved in the activity.

In 2007, first year student Lukasz Luniewski took over the society in the hopes of making it bigger and better. The number of members grew to the highest it has ever been, with breakdancing being increasingly popular amongst the students.

One of the highlights of last year was a two day

workshop with legendary bboy Ken Swift of the Rock Steady Crew. Having such international dancers teaching the society was an amazing experience for all involved, motivating the society members to be the best they can.

The biggest achievement was the organizing of Skillmasters, the biggest breakdance competition to be held in Ireland last year, all planned by Lukasz and DIT Societies.

Dancers from all over the world competed, including France, Poland, Germany, U.S.A, Latvia, U.K and Ireland. Having dancers from all around the world in one venue allowed everyone to learn new and exciting things, as well as meet people who all share a common interest.

The success of these events was really seen when Lukasz won the award for Best Fresher at the DIT Society Awards and also the BISC Best Fresher award for all of Ireland. The hard work and effort put into such activities did not go unnoticed and was well deserved.

This year, the society hopes to maintain such standards and increase its popularity. Even more workshops, the third edition of Skillmasters, and two international trips to other bboy events are in the pipelines.

Already, the next competition, 7 to Smoke, is being prepared. Held on the 18th of October, in Portmarnock Leisure Centre, this competition is not one to be missed by anyone!

## DJ give me a beat...

Founded in 2000 by Will Kinsella, the DIT DJ society has grown to be one of DIT's biggest societies, offering an outlet and new skill for those interested in electronic music, unparalleled by any other society.

With a strong base the society has progressed every year, gaining newer and better DJing technology, and providing an improved and more professional service to the students of DIT.

The DJ Society has been pushing the limits within the college to promote the art of DJing and Dance music. Any DJ has the opportunity to DJ in the College and to express themselves on the decks.

Last year saw the society on top form once more, with many events seen throughout the campus and in the heart of Dublin – the clubs.

From our Rave that was shut down by the fire department to our annual intervarsity Spinoff competition, the DJ society really was a tour de force amongst college goers last year, and this year is going to be even better.

Months prior to the opening of the college to its regular hours, organisation had commenced for the heads of the society to ensure this coming year would be one to remember.

Some enhancements to the society come in the form of the addition of an electronic/dance music production lessons, allowing our members to fully immerse themselves in the electronic music scene.

We have also gained residency in the newly renovated club, ruaille buaille on Monday nights, located on South King street (just off Grafton street), with drink promotions and live DJs from the society.

This night is called Recess, and should be a great night out for all. The society also has many more events and concerts planned, including two other nights in the works, but we think we'll leave these as a surprise for the moment as they're pretty special!

Lessons for soon to be DJs are held in the black box in Angier street college at 5 pm (subject to change).

**Ottis Kelleghan**  
DIT DJ Society Chairperson



## Tread the boards

Drama Soc is up and running again and this year promises to be another fantastic year. We have a new structure in place this year, complete with 2 drama festivals, a Freshers Fest and a new Production Team.

Here are a few dates for your diary:

Sign Up to the drama society on the 1st and 2nd of October in Aungier St., old members must sign up again.

'Whose line is it?' - is taking place in Shine at 8:30pm on 30th of September

Welcome Workshop will take place on Wednesday 1st October, location to be decided.

Our own usual workshops will begin on Tuesday 7th October, 6pm in the Blackbox Theatre, Aungier Street.

During Sign-Up week there will be two plays held in the blackbox, a 'Knacker's Hamlet' and a

The DIT Environmental Society has been running for six years now. It was set up by students from the Environmental Management Course.

Last year, the society sent a group of members to Dundalk IT to see a Wind turbine and how it actually operated in practical terms. Another trip that members went on was to CAT (Centre for Alternative Technology) in Wales, UK, this was to spend two days living in an Eco cabin and to obtain knowledge on how other countries are developing alternative technologies to alter lifestyles.

The society ran the 1st DIT Green Week last year which saw seminars, activities, talks and film screenings throughout the main DIT campuses. The Environmental Society was awarded a medal for Best Photograph at the DIT Societies Awards in April 2008.

Green Week 2009 promises to be a similar event with more hands on activities for students to get involved with.

Planned activities for this year include another visit to the UK to spend two days at the Findhorn Ecovillage in Scotland. A day hike to visit the Poulaphouca Dam and Hydroelectric Power Station on Turlough Hill, Co. Wicklow, the only pumped storage hydroelectric scheme in Ireland.

On the social front we'll have our annual Christmas party and an end of year Green and Black Ball and of course the famed Luas Pub crawl.

Sign up during clubs and socs week. Email [ditenvironmentalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:ditenvironmentalsociety@gmail.com) or check out our bebo page at [www.envplansoc.bebo.com](http://www.envplansoc.bebo.com)

'Bogger's Hamlet'. We are looking for a director for the Bogger's Hamlet so if you are interested please contact Lisa Corrigan ASAP on [vicepres.ditdrama@gmail.com](mailto:vicepres.ditdrama@gmail.com).

The Fresher's Fest will take place instead of our One Acts this year. We are looking currently for directors for these One Acts, so if interested please contact Rachel on [raci2005@hotmail.com](mailto:raci2005@hotmail.com) or Lisa Corrigan on [vicepres.ditdrama@gmail.com](mailto:vicepres.ditdrama@gmail.com). The Fest will take place from 3rd to 6th November.

Rathmines is putting on a big production of 'The Magic Flute' and are looking for people to help on the production side of things. Emails to [ditdrama@gmail.com](mailto:ditdrama@gmail.com) if interested.

We are currently taking nominations for the position of Treasurer on the Overall Drama Committee. Emails to [ditdrama@gmail.com](mailto:ditdrama@gmail.com)

Auditions for our 2 full length productions in December will take place in the 1st week of October.



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**Societies**

## AUNGIER ST.

<b>TUE 30<sup>th</sup> SEPT</b>	<b>Join Sports Clubs</b>
<b>WED 1<sup>st</sup> OCT</b>	<b>Join Societies</b>
<b>THURS 2<sup>nd</sup> OCT</b>	<b>Join Societies</b>

## BOLTON ST.

<b>MON 29<sup>th</sup> SEPT</b>	<b>Join Societies</b>
<b>TUES 30<sup>th</sup> SEPT</b>	<b>Join Societies</b>
<b>WED 1<sup>st</sup> OCT</b>	<b>Join Sports Clubs</b>

## CATHAL BRUGHA ST.

<b>MON 29<sup>th</sup> SEPT</b>	<b>Join Societies</b>
<b>TUES 30<sup>th</sup> SEPT</b>	<b>Join Societies</b>
<b>THURS 2<sup>nd</sup> OCT</b>	<b>Join Sports Clubs</b>

## KEVIN ST.

<b>TUE 30<sup>th</sup> SEPT</b>	<b>Join Sports Clubs</b>
<b>WED 1<sup>st</sup> OCT</b>	<b>Join Societies</b>
<b>THURS 2<sup>nd</sup> OCT</b>	<b>Join Societies</b>

## MOUNTJOY sq.

<b>MON 29<sup>th</sup> SEPT</b>	<b>Join Societies</b>
<b>TUES 30<sup>th</sup> SEPT</b>	<b>Join Societies</b>
<b>THURS 2<sup>nd</sup> OCT</b>	<b>Join Sports Clubs</b>

## RATHMINES

<b>TUE 30<sup>th</sup> SEPT</b>	<b>Join Sports Clubs</b>
<b>WED 1<sup>st</sup> OCT</b>	<b>Join Societies</b>
<b>THURS 2<sup>nd</sup> OCT</b>	<b>Join Societies</b>



# On Your Bike



## DIT students spend the summer cycling around Belarus all in the name of a good cause.

By Seamus O'Neill

This summer over 30 students from DIT and the University of Ulster hopped on their bikes in order to raise money for people in Chernobyl.

Bike 2 Belarus was organised by Student Aid Chernobyl, which is a unique humanitarian organisation. Set up in 2000 by DIT Lecturer Joe McGrath the organisation asks every third-level college in Ireland to raise funds and offer humanitarian assistance in post-Chernobyl Belarus.

The opportunity allows Irish students to help and respond to the needs of the people of Belarus, which is home to the worst environmental disaster in mankind's history.

The average age of those DIT students who participated this summer was 22. That is the average age of the young adults they were supporting in an institution for people born with physical and mental disabilities in Vasilevka.

Each DIT student had to raise 2,000 euro before they went out to Belarus and saw first hand how that money is spent. The way the money is raised and spent means Student Aid Chernobyl is one of the most transparent charities in Ireland.

Spending a week in Belarus the students visited the area around Chernobyl and see the devastation, which is still evident from the nuclear reactor explosion in 1986.

Cycling 60km everyday the students took in the surroundings from the uncomfortable seat of their bicycle.

Since 2006, a lot of attention has been focused on Vasilevka, where the Irish students have got involved and helped to build disabled access accommodation to the highest of standards.

Seven greenhouses are being built also and those living in the centre are receiving training in horticulture, which is making them self sufficient and giving them responsibility.

An educational programme has also been launched with computers donated by DIT's Digital Community Programme.

**"We can't take away their disabilities, but this new home will offer the opportunity to learn how to live in a world outside institutional life"**

According to the founder of Student Aid Chernobyl, Joe McGrath, "we are establishing sheltered training and educational programmes based on what each individual would like to learn."

The main idea behind Student Aid Chernobyl and what makes the charity unique is that instead of helping people in institutions it is trying to get people out of them.

This year they are funding a major initiative to offer independent living for young disabled people who will move from Vasilevka to live in a specially built house which will become their home.

They will have their own rooms, a kitchen, computers, TVs, DVDs and most of all access to the same opportunities that Irish students have.

"We can't take away their disabilities, but this new home will offer the opportunity to learn how to live in a world outside institutional life, said Joe.

"Every person living in this home will learn basic living skills, cooking, managing money, getting a bus, things we take for granted.

"However, institutional life means that these things are all new and have to be learned," he added.

Together with the local Department of Social Protection, Student 10K has provided housemothers, educational services and a small bus for transport to schools, sheltered accommodation and training centres.

While 40,000 euro was raised this summer there is still a shortfall of 30,000 euro to open the home.

The funds raised by the Irish students also support a hospice project which covers substantial parts of the territory of Belarus affected by the Chernobyl fall-out.

This programme enables doctors and nurses to deliver drugs and medical care to cancer patients of all ages.



I was in 3rd year Bachelor of Business in Aungier Street when I first learnt about the Bike2Belarus project through my services lecturer Joe McGrath who is also the Director of the Charity.

He would be slightly reluctant to tell us anything detailed about the trip and instead take part in it and form our own opinions. In retrospect, it would have been pointless asking him to describe the experience, as it is so difficult to put into words.

The first question that everybody has asked me since I have gotten back is 'how was the cycling?' Let me make this clear. Belarus is as flat as a pancake! Anybody can do it.

We spent most our time in a place called Gomel which is extremely close to the exclusion zone, which is a forbidden area as a result of the fallout radiation from Chernobyl. We got the opportunity to visit the boarder of the exclusion zone, which I personally found to be an eerie experience. The 'Radioactive' symbol was sign-posted by the gate, just yards away.

We spent a lot of time in a place called Vasilevka. This was a home for a variety of people. Some orphans, some disabled, some young and some old. The Student Aid charity had done a lot of great work here over the years and now it was our turn.

Many of the residents had come out to the main gate as we arrived to wave and say hello as we cycled in. The people here do not get a great number of visitors and rarely have the opportunity to leave the centre but they are always delighted to see new faces and welcome them in.

Vasilevka was a shock for us when we first arrived. Seeing all the different types of disabilities and orphans can be upsetting but then you come to realise that the people here are happy and cared for. We did a lot of great work for the residents before we left, by building greenhouses for them to grow vegetables and a ramp for wheelchair access to the main building.

A place that we visited that had the biggest affect on me was called Rejitsa. It was a disabled children's orphanage. The majority of the children here were in wheelchairs or had deformities. Again the children here were cared for and happy. It just came as such a shock when we first arrived because we never see this many disabled children or children with these types of deformities.

I simply cannot put into words how much I recommend this trip. All of the day-to-day problems that Irish students face will be forgotten out there. When I came home, I really felt like I had been taking everything for granted. I felt a new appreciation for all of the opportunities I have in life and honest to God, cannot wait to go back next year.

In terms of making the decision to go on the trip, there really are few reasons not to. Your friends are going on J1? The Belarus trip happens at the end of June so you can meet them in early July! Don't think you can raise the €2,000? Of course you can. A few pub quiz's. Charity games of poker. Friends and family. Sponsored silences. Whatever it takes! Just do it because you certainly won't regret it or the friends you will make along the way.

**Justin Ronan**

Heading over to Belarus I was full of excitement and anxiety. Raring to go, I also didn't know what to expect. It surpassed anything I could have imagined.

When you arrive into Belarus you notice a certain aura to the place. But it's not until you head south of Minsk that you really realise the difference. Places such as Gomel are full of worn out and run down homes and buildings.

On our third day we hit the bikes. This was the sponsored part of our journey. We headed out for a 22km cycle away from our residence, getting a great view of some of the smaller places in the countryside. That was followed by another two days of cycling, for 50km and 28km.

The banter was immense on the bikes, with everyone having the craic. This always changed when we arrived into our destination as these were serious times. Witnessing such devastating surroundings for young people with a mental or physical deficiency (or some times both) was, to be honest, heartbreaking. These children were



I am now starting my final year in college. Although most students were relaxing on a warm sandy beach during the summer, I decided to do something a little different.

I went to Belarus with about 40 other people. I wasn't very knowledgeable on what Belarus was like as a country, but I knew after this trip I would have no questions about what living in Belarus was like.

I raised €2000 by having a BBQ in a large GAA club, it was difficult to raise the money at first but I soon became quite knowledgeable on how to fundraise.

We set off to Belarus on the 19th of June. As daunting as it was; I was excited to find out about what the people were like in Belarus. Our Itinerary was cycling around 100 miles during the 8 days we were staying there; we were also visiting various baby orphanages, other orphanages with children aging between 5-12, and a home for adults.

I found out how beautiful Belarus is. Although it is a very poor area, the Belarusian's take an enormous amount of pride in there country.

The Baby orphanage was very upsetting, children that were very independent at such a young age was incredible to see. There were 2 year olds that were so excited to show off where they lived, they reached out to each and every one of

never given a chance. The Chernobyl disaster has left a harrowing mark on Belarus. There are too many young people castaway from un-wanting parents and families.

It's when we visited the children's orphanage on our last day the hit it home. Kids the ages of 8 to about 15 living in un-hygienic, un-nurtured homes who, with only your presence, can be kept smiling for hours. We were told we were leaving; tears began to flow from both sides. They just didn't want us to leave. It was a quiet bus trip back to the airport.

I'd like to thank everyone who attended to trip and made it such an unreal experience. Joe McGrath works so hard for this cause he should be president. All the UUSU crew who we had so much craic with, and of course the DIT lads who made it special. I'll see you all back there next year.

Thanks also have to be given to all the people who sponsored and supported us. Cheers.

**Brian Claffey**



us! The conditions are much better since this charity was created.

The home for adults with mental and physical disabilities was a breath of fresh air. There conditions were fantastic, the adults there were on their laptops when we arrived & they were learning English!

They had a fantastic reception for us, they put on a concert for us, and afterwards we spoke to each individual person in which they told us some stories, and the things they went through growing up in Belarus.

I think it mainly hit me how lucky we are to live where we do. When I was speaking to the translator, a young girl about the same age as me, and she was telling me she has been saving up for a dress for 5 months and she couldn't wait to buy it.

I was intrigued to know how much this dress was, and she explained that it was €50 but she only earned €250 a year!!!! I was shocked that it's not only the kids in the orphanages that are badly off but also the locals of Belarus.

I would recommend this experience to anyone, I was so lucky to be able to meet such wonderful people, and I feel I thoroughly benefited from the experience.

**Caroline Barry**





By Ronan Cannon

**I**n America you cannot get paid for work done unless you have a social security number. Fair enough, that seems pretty reasonable, no complaints here.

The only issue I'd have trouble with, and it is a minor one, is that it took 3 MONTHS for mine to arrive. That's 3 MONTHS without getting paid a penny. I'm drowning in debt and my J1 experience is almost over- it's a joke I tell ya, an absolute joke!

Over the course of the summer I've probably put more hours in at the Social Security Office than half the people who work there. And no, it's not because it's a fun place to hang out - infested with junkies and crying babies as it is.

I would also like to take issue with their 'free' contact number which is actually more expensive than most Class A drugs or so I've heard. And when you can't get paid those phone bills can seem pretty steep.

I suppose it's my own fault really. Technically you're supposed to wait for ten days after you arrive in the country before applying for a SS number.

I waited for 2, grossly overestimating the competence and efficiency of the SS administration. As it happens, they're not very competent or efficient.

If you apply before those ten days are up, there's a risk your details will be sent off to Homeland Security - which is what happened to me - which was a right pain. I called up Homeland Security to see what the problem was, the operator tried to convince me that a J-1 visa does not let you work in the US, and I understood exactly what the problem was.

After two and a half months spent in the waiting room of the SS office I finally had a breakthrough.

They realised that they had not actually sent my details away in the first place and I was promised a number within ten days!

I took a moment, walked calmly into the bathroom and let out the biggest scream of sheer joy before jumping around - drunk on relief - and calmly walking back out.

Though they may have heard a scream, I'm pretty sure the crazies didn't notice.



By Karla Duarte

**W**ith responsible travel fast becoming a pre-requisite for any company looking to engage in the tourism business, new adventure travel company, Travel The Unknown, has put this at the heart of its tour operator services.

From the selection of destinations to the way that tours are conducted on the ground, every aspect of the chain has been analysed and actions put into place to ensure that tours benefit both groups of travellers and the local communities.

North East India has not benefited from the same levels of infrastructure development as other parts of India and by selecting this region for its first set of tours, Travel The Unknown aims to bring the benefits of carefully-managed tourism to this part of the world.

Tourism creates livelihoods and preserves local traditions that may otherwise die out. Rahul Aggarwal, co-founder of Travel The Unknown, who has a background in globalisation and development, said:

"If locals can see that tourists are buying their handicrafts at fair prices then it encourages them to keep producing these beautiful artefacts.

"Otherwise many people leave their villages for the big cities contributing to already overwhelming urbanisation. What's more they often end up with low-paid jobs, causing economic and social breakdown back home."

With this in mind, Travel The Unknown has included several village visits as a key part of their tours. Not only are the villages incredibly scenic

and distinctive in their style, but villagers have the opportunity to showcase their craftsmanship and artistic skills.

The West has only recently started to take recycling and resource management seriously. In the developing world, and especially in these villages, they seem to be ahead of the West in some ways.

In North East India, bamboo, which is a renewable resource, is used as the staple raw material in the construction of houses, rafts, containers and cooking vessels.

The Apatani tribe of Arunachal Pradesh has also developed an ingenious way of cultivating rice and fish within the same plot, known as pisci-culture. Tour groups will be able to witness this inspiring ingenuity on the tribal circuit of the tour.

It is important to note that sustainable development is a two-way process, where villagers are not just the passive recipients of Western advice, but very much an equally pro-active partner.

Co-founder, David McGuinness says:

"We made sure we consulted everyone from the local operator to village elders as to how our tours should be designed with the environment and local communities in mind.

"One recommendation was to bring small groups and although it may be less profitable, our maximum group-size is only 12 people per tour, thereby reducing both the environmental and cultural impact of our tours.

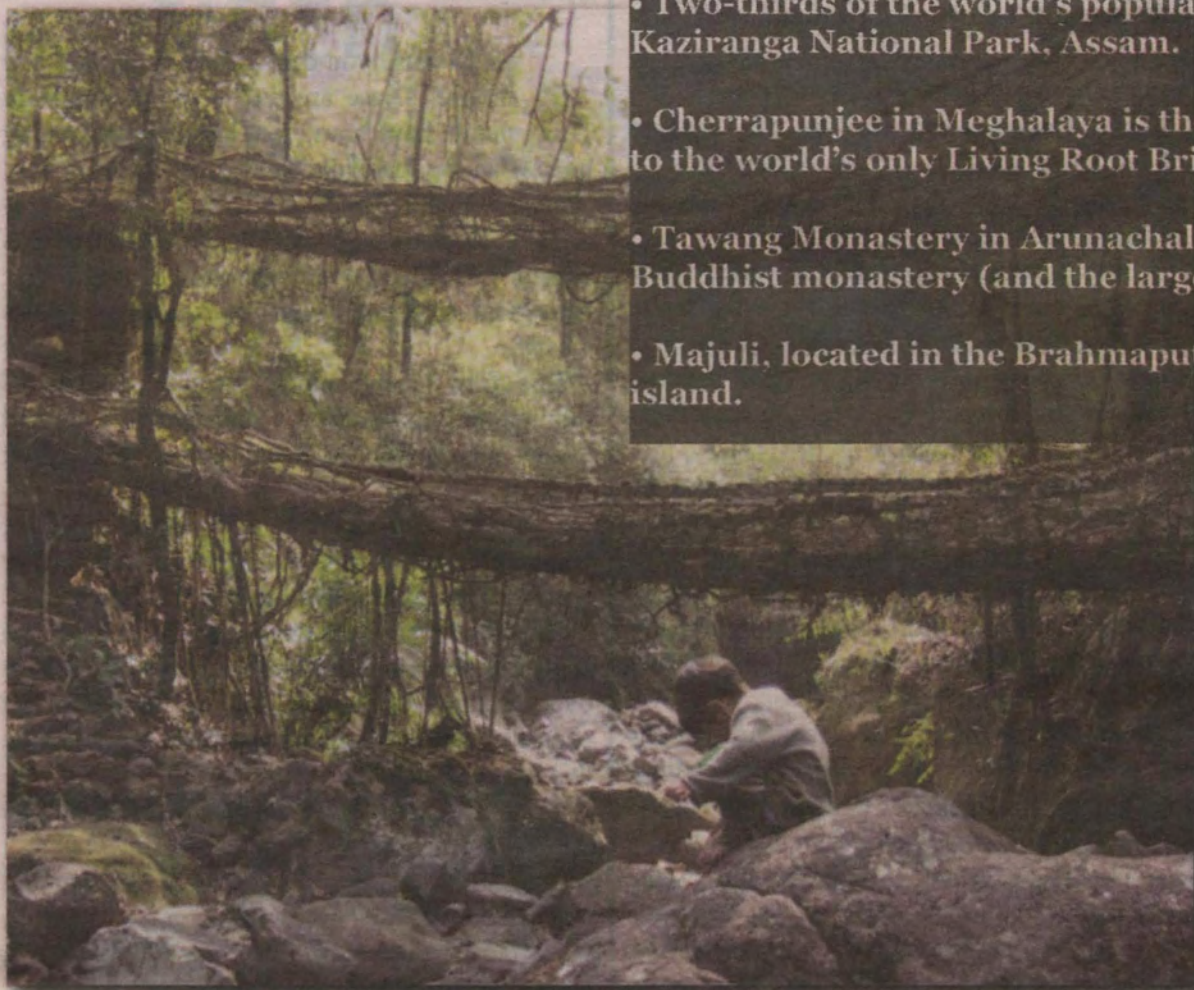
"On village visits, we even split groups between



# unknown

## North East India: The Facts!

- Arunachal Pradesh is home to 26 tribes and many more sub-tribes.
- Two-thirds of the world's population of unicorn rhinos reside in Kaziranga National Park, Assam.
- Cherrapunjee in Meghalaya is the wettest place on Earth and also home to the world's only Living Root Bridges.
- Tawang Monastery in Arunachal Pradesh is the world's second largest Buddhist monastery (and the largest outside Tibet).
- Majuli, located in the Brahmaputra river, is the world's largest river island.



villages so that more villages can share the benefits tourism brings."

Climate change is a hot topic of discussion in the West with governments and the public becoming more willing to find solutions to the problem.

Since air travel is here to stay, there is the dilemma of how to reduce the carbon impact of flying. Carbon-offsetting may have its flaws, but it is probably the best of the options available in attempting to address this problem.

For each tour booked, Travel The Unknown is making a contribution to Climate Care to offset carbon emissions from flights and ground transport. Climate Care in turn invests in development projects around the world.

The media is playing an increasingly important role in educating people on topics like climate change, fair trade and social justice.

Similarly, travellers also need to be educated on how to travel more responsibly. Many tourist hotspots have been harmed because of the litter and noise generated by visitors, which in turn has corrupted and upset locals.

Travel The Unknown arms its guests with Trip Notes containing a section devoted to Responsible Travel, covering environmental and cultural issues, that if practised will not only enrich the whole travelling experience, but also strengthen the bond between host and guest.

Travel The Unknown is actively seeking to work with and contribute to NGOs in North East India who adhere to lifting people out of poverty and conserving the environment.





## 'Forth' serve from the Verve

By LúC Cinnseala

See what they did there? It's a play on the fact that this is their "fourth" album. Their third was released a total of eleven years ago and its name, *Urban Hymns*, may ring a few bells.

Since this 1997 classic, the band fell into the wilderness. Playing the same songs live got boring for the boys about two years later and one backstage scuffle which left Ashcroft with a "sore jaw" was the final straw.

It seemed over for the lads from Wigan. But, as is now a right of passage for all defunct rock bands, they re-formed, toured and recorded for the past year and a half.

Sit and Wonder tops the list as opening track and it earns its place as a gatekeeper to the following nine songs. The track's dramatic build-up to introduce listeners to the album mimics Radiohead's use of Planet Telex on 1995's classic, *The Bends*, but its lyrics are a clear reference to the tough times that The Verve have had for the past decade. Nonetheless, it stays energetic without becoming a sob story for the band.

Love is Noise follows and speaks for itself. It is, to put it simply, an astounding track. From the moment you hear its odd background noises at the start, you know this song will be different for better or worse.

Thankfully it's for the better in every way. Lyrics that make you stop and think, rolling guitar riffs that keep your head nodding and seamless production to round it all off make this the crowned pride of Forth.

Following on, *Rather Be* contains some of the most personal lyrics on the album: "*There's no need for introductions/No dark corridors of fame/You won't find your fortune/You might find some pain.*" This track, along with *Love is Noise* towers above the others and is well worth a listen.

It could be the thwangy guitar strums, it could be the raw middle American sound or it could be the near-constant desperation in Ashcroft's voice but this album, in many ways, comes across as a noisy Joshua Tree.

And then it happens: The track, six minutes in, begins to slide into the ramblings of some 15-year-olds telling the world how nobody understands them.

It's here that *Forth* Begins to slide completely. The final two tracks hit the 7:30 minute mark and it becomes tedious.

Songs lose any kind of structure and we get to hear what it's like when a paranoid rock band decides to splash around with a few chords in studio.

The album dies out gently at the end of *Appalachian Springs*. Staying listening this long is a difficult feat though.

What starts of as a very positive album, falls into the classic trap of getting experimental and boring and falling flat at the end.

From veterans such as The Verve it's hard to take any significant lasting impression with you from this serving of the band.

## More Than Day Trippers

By Sinead Keogh

It must have been a case of "could the last one out of Bray please turn off the light?" as fans turned up in their droves to support local band Peakin' Trippers at their *Crawdaddy* EP launch on Friday September 5th last.

The Bray 5-piece sold out the city centre venue with queues out the door from early in the night. Admittedly, *Crawdaddy* isn't the biggest venue in the world – with capacity for 300 – but it filled up early, a testament to the big local fan base these guys have already built up.

It's easy to see why the 5 lads (Shay Fogarty on Bass, Cillian Duane on Lead Guitar, Dan Smith on Drums, Dave Butler on Rhythm Guitar and Vocals and Vocalist Scott O'Neill) are growing in popularity on the Irish music scene with their mix of catchy, foot-tapping tunes and even catchier lyrics from lyricist Dave Butler.

Frontman Scott O'Neill bounced around the stage, tambourine in hand, energising proceedings from the beginning, like a more exciting Anders SG. They had the crowd going from the start with songs like the original number *Riddle* in the *Middle* and a cover of The Beatles' *Day Tripper*.

All eyes were on the guys themselves as they were slamming out the tunes. It was amusing to watch the ramped-up Scott play the complete opposite to Cillian, who strummed away calmly from beginning to end.

Unfortunately for the guys, they had amp trouble throughout their set. Though it couldn't have been predicted or planned for, the gaps between songs showed that they are still getting used to club crowds.

They didn't think to chat to their adoring audience, who danced and shrieked excitedly through each number. Having said that, the interaction is probably something that should come about naturally for them once they get onto the bill at a few more venues on the back of the *Crawdaddy* sell out.

The song they had come to launch – *Tin Tin* – met with cheers in its opening bars and proved no disappointment to the non-Bray crowd who were hearing it for the first time either.

Pre-gig, the Tripper's described their sound as "urban-flavoured acoustic country rock" and to be fair to them, they are the musical equivalent of tapas – with a little something for everyone in their upbeat repertoire.

*Tin Tin*, sang by Butler and O'Neill, is a mix of strong vocals and lively, nimble-fingered guitar playing from Fogarty and Duane. Ballads like *The Girl Next Door* and *Day In Paris* conform to that old Beatles trick of mixing sad songs up in a happy, feel-good sound.

If audience reaction was anything to go by, these guys are set for bigger and better things – and they have the talent to get there.

Interview with their manager on page 23!

## Then She Found You

By Gary Fox

Just because you can doesn't mean that you should. These are the words Helen Hunt should have brought to mind before casting herself as the lead role in her directorial debut, *Then She Found You*.

Hunt, 46, plays a 39 year-old newly wed who is constantly haunted by the ominous sounds of her biological clock ticking, as she desperately craves a baby.

This film barrels along for the opening 25 minutes before entering a dull cycle of clichéd events which fill the remainder of this "chick flick".

It tells the story of April, a 39 year-old teacher, who marries and is subsequently abandoned by her new husband played by Matthew Broderick.

She then falls for the charms of Colin Firth and finds out her real birth mother played by a very over the top Bette Midler. All very formulaic but even a colour by numbers approach cannot make this film entertaining.

To be fair to Hunt, her role can be explained by the independent financing of the film, she said: "given the amount of money I had, and the amount of days we had to shoot, if I had anyone else in there playing the part, it wouldn't have gotten done."

"Getting money to make it was unspeakably hard and took a ridiculously long amount of time."

Colin Firth pops up as his usual, Hugh Grant-esque bumbling love-able English gent. Firth seems to meander from movie to movie without having to break with his stereotypical role and is in danger of becoming a parody of his own success.

The new director seemingly unsure of what theme to concentrate on sets about cramming every possible issue that could possibly face a woman approaching middle age into the 100 minutes of her debut.

The subject matter bounces manically from one to the next in a desperate attempt to cover all bases.

The topics that appear, in no particular order include, infidelity, aging, marriage, separation, identity, abandonment amongst many, many others.

Weighed down by such topics of meaning, the film itself struggles with its own identity problems, falling between the serious comedy and light drama modes, but it fails to accomplish either.

With such a myriad of topics it becomes impossible to focus on where the film is trying to take you and by the final 30 minutes, you are yearning for the credits to roll.

Certainly not one for the lads and it's debatable whether even the most ardent of chick-flick fans would be able to enjoy it.



# I'm with the band



**Aidan Coughlan is fresh out of DIT's Media Arts course, but he's already been managing bands for 2 years. The Peakin' Trippers manager, fresh from guiding his latest project into their first chart position at No 45, talks to Sinéad Keogh about getting into the management side of the music business.**

## What made you decide to go in this direction initially?

It was never a conscious decision. My friend was in a band called The Kybosh, and he started to promote them once they began to get serious... or what we thought was serious at the time.

I kept coming up with ideas of how to promote them, and started to polish the press releases, make sure they looked professional, make sure they sounded right at gigs, all that sort of thing.

Eventually I got involved in the other aspects, such as gig organisation and the like, and my official manager status was confirmed.

After a while, I wanted to try something new. I was co-managing The Kybosh with the aforementioned friend, but I wanted something of my own which I could shape as I saw fit. So I came across Peakin' Trippers after searching for a while, and it just clicked.

The more I do it, the more I want to go in that direction. But it was certainly not something I decided upon at any point.

## So is the eventual aim to be a sort of cooler Louis Walsh?

Ha. Well, personally I don't think there's anything uncool about him per sé, he's just a fantastic businessman with a tremendous ability to know what people want.

But at the same time, I'd have to believe firmly in any music I sell or promote. I mean, if I'm putting material out there, telling people it's superb when I know deep down it's not, I'm going to lose any enthusiasm I have for the job.

I'm a music fanatic, have been since I was a kid, and even though what I do is a business venture, I still need to get some musical satisfaction out of it.

So yes, Louis with some musical substance behind me would be the best thing!

## So when you decide to be a manager, how exactly do you go about finding yourself a band to manage?

See, again it's not really a decision you make. You usually end up seeing them, or coming across them in some way, and thinking 'yeah... that could work'.

When I came across Peakin' Trippers, I'd been looking for a month or two. But I'd been to gigs in Dublin, and had been checking out MySpaces and Bebos from bands all over the place, without any band managing to really impress me.

Some impressed me but I didn't think they could be worked on, I felt they had reached their potential and it was good, if not superb. Then I saw Peakin' Trippers, while I was out in my own local in Bray.

They quite simply blew me away first time around, like nothing I'd seen before in a long time, on a 'small-band' scale or otherwise. I couldn't believe there was a band like that in my own town.

Had I not come across them, or a band that had a similar effect on me, I wouldn't have taken on another band.

Similarly, I wouldn't rule out taking on another act if they had that effect on me. Though it's hard to imagine that being replicated!

## Was there any competition for the job? Are managers generally very lucky to find some original talent? Are there even that many managers scouting for talent on the Irish scene anyway?

There was one other person with a 'bid' in for the band at the time when I first talked to them. I had a bit of experience on my side, and I was lucky enough to share the same vision as the lads... I must have somehow said something that impressed them!

Usually if you have a decent track record, or if you can offer something genuine to the band, there's not too much competition. You won't find bidding wars or anything like that in the Irish scene, it's just not like that.

Usually the playing field levels itself, and the good bands end up with someone decent to represent them.

Everyone starting up is a little out of their depth, so it's a matter of punching above your weight for the first while. You need to be able to do that in order to get anywhere, and if you can, you're fine.

## Did you have any issues with getting taken seriously as a young, first-timer when dealing with venues and studios?

Absolutely. And sometimes they're right to doubt you! But that's why you need to punch above your weight a little.

Have something to prove you're not just a bunch of lads who play in a garage and come out to do the odd gig for the money and women... basically you have to show that the band are professionals.

Little things like your own logo and website, branded t-shirts, demos recorded in a proper studio, they go a really long way in letting people know you mean business.

They help you get your foot in the door to some extent, but then you need to build on them... chart appearances, press testimonials and clippings, an ability to sell tickets, they're the sort of things that help you work your way up from there.

We sold out Crawdaddy a couple of weeks ago, and be sure of it, I'll be working that fact into every bit of correspondence over the next few weeks! And with every step up on the ladder it gets a tiny bit easier.

Also, you have to work well for those who do deal with you. First chances are hard to come by, but if you make life difficult for them, second chances are near impossible.

Things like paying quickly and on time, acknowledging the good work, being punctual for gigs, bringing along fans when you say you will... they'll make people a lot more willing to work with you a second time, obvious as it seems!

## You're also a music journalist. Do you think you're going to get to a point of conflict between that and managing? Will one have to lose out to the other?

I don't think so, once all interests are declared. Being on both sides of the divide does help, but only because you increase your understanding of the process.

You've got to be careful not to cross lines or anything, but the only reason I'd give up one for the other is time constraints.



# Festival Fever



Photography by  
Tony Kinlan



Welsh lass Duffy playing "The other stage" at the Glastonbury festival 2008.

You may be back in college but that doesn't mean you can't re-live those summer moments. DIT News bring you the best images from this summer's major festivals.



Richard Ashcroft of the Verve performs at Oxegen 2008. Check out a review of their new album 'Forth' on page 22 of this DIT News!



The paparazzi's favourite. Amy Winehouse performing on the pyramid stage in Glastonbury this summer.





Caleb Followill of Kings of Leon preforms at Oxegen 2008 ahead of the release of their fourth studio album 'Only by the Night'.



He's the fire starter!  
Keith Flint from The Prodigy performs on the O2 Stage at Oxegen 2008.



James Allan of Glasvegas Preforms in the John Peel tent at Glastonbury 2008.



Gaz Harding of The Kinetiks kicks off proceedings on Saturday night in Meeting house Square at the Hard Working Class Heroes Festival



They call me Stacey, they call me Jane, that's not my name....

It sure ain't. It's Katie White of the British Act "The Ting Tings" playing in the John Peel tent in Glastonbury.



The Zutons, Dave McCabe Plays on "The other Stage" at Glastonbury 2008.



# Food for thought

As students everywhere tuck into their pasta and pot noodles, Culinary Arts student **Ross McGuinness** examines our relationship with food. He explains how we as consumers have moved from wanting quality to wanting something quick and convenient.

**T**he supermarket chains have made us lazy. They have allowed us to become too reliant on pre-packaged meat products that are of a low quality.

In allowing big business to take a strangle hold on our purchasing habits, we have inadvertently contributed to the demise of the local butcher.

For generations the butcher had a central role in the local community, a role that was on par in terms of importance with the post office or pub. It was a place for people to buy their meat safe in the knowledge of its high quality and traceability. Butchers source their produce locally, have it slaughtered locally and they hang it themselves.

This whole process is essential for a good butcher to be a success. They have always had the know how and the acumen to be able to reassure the customer about what they are buying.

Nowadays, in our collective drive to achieve convenience in every facet of life we have become too accustomed to walking into Tesco or SuperValu, going to the chilled section and picking up a ten pack of chicken breasts.

These packs will invariably be stacked in neat rows, side by side on shelves three rows high beside the beef, lamb and pork products, all nicely presented in their plastic boxes waiting for the customer to purchase.

No longer do people go to a specific place to get a specific produce. It has all become too easy. And this is the problem with the current system. The relationship between animal and man has been separated.

Where before people would go into a butcher and talk about what they were buying, how it should be cooked, maybe even find out about the welfare of the animal which they are investing their cash in.

Today this is non-existent in supermarkets and it's a great shame that a worthy tradition is being lost.

Everything in a supermarket is driven by money, the philosophy is to produce as much as possible for as little as possible regardless of quality. People have become accustomed to being able to buy a chicken for only a few euro. How can a chicken be raised in a good environment, on natural feed, be slaughtered correctly and carefully, plucked, gutted and then hung?

"No longer do people go to a specific place to get a specific produce. It has all become too easy. And this is the problem with the current system"

How can this animal be sold then for only a few euro? It is not possible, really it isn't, not if everything is done properly and no shortcuts are taken. The supermarkets take shortcuts, the shortcut is taken at the expense of animal welfare and quality.

Yet in our race to have food cheaper and make it more convenient for ourselves, we've brushed over this fact. Good butchers take immense pride in their products, they take pride in the knowledge that they know where their meat comes from, how it was reared and how it was slaughtered.

One way to counteract this problem I believe is through education.

Currently the Irish education system teaches a wide variety of subjects at primary and secondary level, students are taught maths, languages and sciences. Children learn to speak French and understand chemistry, yet are not taught about where our food comes from.

It's something to worry about if young people growing up in today's Ireland - where all our food seems to come pre-packaged, prepared and pre-washed - are not able to make the connection between the chicken they see in story books and the chicken on their plate at dinnertime. It would be a sad reality.

We need to change our attitude and get used to the idea of quality, not quantity. Do we really need to eat meat everyday? The Italians, for example, have a strong heritage and association with good food.

They have a strong relationship with their food, yet it would be common for a family dinner not to contain meat.

Dishes like a pasta with a tomato and basil sauce, risotto with parmesan or saffron, salads of rocket and mozzarella with nice breads.

They have always believed in the idea of quality over quantity.

Better to pay a little more for high quality, carefully reared meat from the local butcher than the poor quality, carelessly produced drivel from the supermarket.

People in this country and young people in particular, need to get out of their current comfort zone and get down to their butchers. The experience will be a whole lot more rewarding than a trek to Tesco.

## How to save €1000's this academic year

**While buying quality meat and produce sounds expensive Gary Fox shares his top tips on how to save some cash while stuck in this economic downturn.**

### Get a student travel card

They are available from the Students Union on campus. The travel card will get your discounts on the usual travel companies, Irish Rail, Dublin Bus, the Luas etc but it also doubles up as a student discount card which gives money off in stores such as HMV, Topshop, McDonalds, Champion Sports and loads more. The card itself costs €12 but you should save that back within weeks.

For more info visit [www.studenttravelcard.ie](http://www.studenttravelcard.ie) or your local SU office.

### Need furniture?

New house not exactly furnished to your standard? Visit [www.dublinwaste.ie](http://www.dublinwaste.ie) and click on their Free Trade section where people post items for free, you simply have to collect. Everything from free armchairs to televisions is available for

nothing but your time.

### Aldi and Lidl

The low cost German discount stores no longer hold the stigma they encountered when they initially opened. These stores offer high quality own brand goods at low prices. And yes, they sell cheap alcohol. Drink sensibly etc.

### Brew your own coffee

With most coffee shops now charging well over €2 for a large coffee, it can add up pretty quickly. A proper coffee maker can be picked up for around €30 with a bag of high quality coffee available in Tescos for about four Euros per bag.

Alternatively make do with instant for €2 a jar which serves around 30-40 cups.

### Newspapers

The Irish Times, Independent, The Star and the Herald are discounted by 50% in the Students Union shop, this may not sound like much but if you saved €0.80 cents each day on your paper it will save you €120 over the academic year.

### Parking

This may seem obvious but where possible try use public transport as the parking around the various DIT campuses is awful. If you have to bring your car, then you will find one of the

cheapest places to be the Apollo car park. It's located in Apollo House at junction of Tara Street and Poolbeg Street. It costs just for €1.50 per hour or €10 per day and is open from open 7am to 8 pm.

### Haircuts

Stopping short of cutting it yourself this is the most economical way keeping your treasured tresses in shape. Most salons offer cut-price haircuts to allow their trainees to gain practical experience. There is very little risk of ending up with green hair or missing an ear as trainees are in their fourth year of a rigorous course and have been educated to a very high standard. Contact stores such as Peter Marks to enquire about this service.

Note: DIT News will bear no responsibility if you end up looking like an extra from a 1980's punk video. But do send us a picture to share your embarrassment.

### Free Gigs and Events

The Dublin Events Guide is sent by email every Thursday morning and lists a full range of free events in Dublin for the upcoming week. The guide is an excellent resource and finds the very best things to do at no cost. To subscribe send an email to [dublineventguide@gmail.com](mailto:dublineventguide@gmail.com)



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## GAA Upcoming Events

### October 1st

#### Hurling & Camogie Blitz

Grangegorman sees DIT GAA run it's inaugural Hurling & Camogie Blitz,

which will pit the respective main Campuses against each other. Hurlers of

Bolton Street take on Aungier Street in the opening game, while Kevin

Street and a combined team from Cathal rugha & Mountjoy square.

### October 8th

#### Ladies GAA Club Trip

The DIT Ladies GAA club Camogie and Ladies Football Section have planned a

club trip for all new and existing members. The Club are hoping to combine

a challenge game with a day at the Carlingford Adventure Centre, and then

night out that evening in Dublin. For more info contact Rita Boland on

rita.boland@student.dit.ie



Jonny O'Dowd & Hannah Herlihy crossing the finish line and celebrating DIT's win in the Sailing Intervarsities in Killaloe March 2008 and inset the team after winning the intersites, L to R back: Jonny O'Dowd, Brian Fenlon, Conor Byrne; front: Hannah Herlihy, Marty O'Leary & Emer McNally.

# DIT sailing team to head down under

By Conor Byrne

The DIT Sailing Team have qualified to attend the Team Sailing World Championships in Perth, Australia, January 2009.

The DIT Club of the Year sailed in eight Irish & UK college championships last season, winning five and finishing silver in the trials to rename their team Ireland 2.

DIT were the first non-university to win the Irish Intervarsity Championships in 60 years of the competition, in Killaloe, Co. Clare last March, beating 23 teams.

You can see the team in action on the Grand Canal Dock on the 27th September, for the Docklands Regatta, a showcase event where a few teams compete in a friendly event outside the Ocean Bar. The event welcomes novices to try out sailing.

The team is beginning their training schedule at time of print, in their 12' Pacer Dinghies which are unusual to Ireland, but are de rigour in Australia.

Boats will be provided at the championships which makes the transport easier, the team are currently seeking major sponsors to cover costs.

Team Sailing is a mentally demanding and athletic sport in two person boats, three boats per team, and two teams race each other at one time.

The boats start on a line, race around an umpired course of four marks placed in an 'S' shape according to the wind's direction, and use tactics and rules to get their teams' boats ahead of the opposition's boats. The race is over when the boats cross the finish line, about 10 minutes later.

The winning team must finish in better positions with lower points. (one point for 1st, two for 2nd etc.)

The Ireland 1 team, from Dun Laoghaire, has been attending the biannual World Championships for the last nine years and finished fourth in 2007, and the third Irish team is Ireland U-21's, from Schull Community College in West Cork.

### The Team;

Marty O'Leary (4th year Engineering), Brian Fenlon (4th year Electrical Engineering), Jonny O'Dowd (MA Accounting), Rachel Guy (1st year Business), Emer McNally (3rd year Marketing) & Conor Byrne (MA Journalism)



## DIT APPOINTS FAI 3rd LEVEL FOOTBALL FACILITATOR

In a joint initiative with the FAI (Football Association of Ireland), DIT has appointed John O'Carroll as FAI 3rd level Football Facilitator.

John commenced this new role on September 17th 2008. He is one of six new facilitators appointed across the country in a number of Colleges and Universities.

John's main objective in this new role will be to increase participation among students and staff, promote the game both internally and externally, organize educational training in the form of coaching, refereeing, volunteering and fundraising.

He will also be involved in organizing events, competitions and recruiting and supporting potential and existing soccer scholarship students.

Sponsorship and fundraising will also be a key area of John's duties.

So if you have an interest in the following:

- Futsal (indoor soccer)
- 6 aside Astro League
- Freshers Soccer Blitz (23rd of September-Grangegorman)
- FAI Coaching Courses
- Competitive & recreational soccer

### Contact:

John O'Carroll – FAI Facilitator for DIT –  
0867954371 – john.ocarroll@fai.ie



## '07/'08 another successful year for DIT soccer club

The DIT Mens Soccer Club had another successful year in 2007/2008.

The freshers Team won the CFAI League and also the Umbro Cup held in Salthill Devon in Galway in March this year.

The premier team had another successful league campaign and also reached the semi-final of the Umbro Cup.

The ladies team were narrowly beaten by UCD in the Challenge Cup Final held at the Belfield bowl in UCD.

Contact details for the Soccer Club are as follows:

**Tony O'Connor** - Men's Premier Soccer -  
0876114055

**Joe O'Brien** - Men's Division Div 1 & 2 -  
0861953854

**Stephen Dempsey** - Ladies Soccer -  
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Eamon is hoping the success his brother, Eoin, had at this year's Beijing Olympics will help to improve the standards and facilities available for them to practise their chosen sport. Eoin came an incredible fourth in the Olympic final of the canoeing slalom.

It is clear Eoin as well as Eamon's other brothers, Aidan and David have a big part to play in Eamon getting involved in the sport. All the Rheinisch lads followed each other into the sport of canoeing slalom.

Speaking about his first experience on the water Eamon recalls asking his brother Eoin to take him out on the water with him.

"I remember flying around and hitting the jetty and falling out as I didn't know how to stop. I went back the next day and the day after that though," he said.

### The Olympics

"I went to Beijing to look after Eoin and give him as much support as I could give him. It was unbelievable there. I was in Athens in 2004 but Beijing will not be topped for at least 20 years. They say they spent over 30 billion and London plans to spend 11 billion," he said.

He found his experience of Beijing memorable and the people very friendly. "When I landed in Beijing I looked out and I noticed there's no sun, it's just grey but it's bright. After three days I found myself coughing and had a bit of a sore throat.

"There were guards everywhere and we were always being monitored when we left our hotel and around the city. They said it was for safety but there was always had that big brother is watching you feeling," he said.

### On his brother's success

"He was delighted to come fourth. He knew he had a bit of luck getting into the semi-finals in the first place. Anyone on any day can win and that's the nice thing about it. If you're the fastest out there on track and field you can win but if you're the fastest in slalom anything can happen, there are so many elements to go right. That's why I love it."

### His future

While he was on the senior team this year due to another guy getting sick it was too late to be considered for Beijing as selection had already taken place and Eamon also hadn't raced in the World Championships the year before.

"Myself, Eoin and two other guys are the four people earmarked for 2012. So I might be racing against my brother for an Olympic spot in 2012 because only one boat can go, as it is only one boat per nation," he explained.

"People start concentrating on 2012 three years beforehand. 2011 and the world championships will be the selector for who goes to the Olympics," he said.

Eamon is very proud of the sport he is involved in and winning an Olympic medal in London 2012 and being acknowledged as the best person in his field would as he says himself be "amazing". He is also proud that canoeing slalom has never had a positive drugs test in its history, a record he won't be changing.

He says, "In my sport there's no main advantage to taking drugs. An Olympic canoeist and friend of mine Mike Kurt summed it up when he told me you can inject the speed but you can never inject the technique."





**It's bye bye Beijing as we look forward to London 2012. While boxing grabbed the headlines this time around, there's nothing stopping DIT's Eamon Rheinisch from grabbing gold in four years time. Darragh O'Donoghue looks at those who have gone before him and became Ireland's greatest Olympians.**

### Dr. Patrick O'Callaghan

**H**ammer-thrower Pat O'Callaghan was the first Irishman to win gold at the Olympics, and is still our only athlete to retain an Olympic title.

It takes a special kind of mentality to become a world-class athlete, and Pat O'Callaghan showed he had that mental toughness from the age of 15, when he cycled the 32-mile round trip to school every day for a full year and never missed a class.

Growing up in Cork, O'Callaghan's first forays into the world of sport were, unsurprisingly, in Gaelic Games, as he excelled in both football and hurling. Moving to Dublin to attend the Royal College of Surgeons, however, afforded him the chance to develop a passion for both rugby and, more importantly, hammer-throwing.

Returning home, O'Callaghan began training using a home-made hammer, and won the 1927 national championship with a throw of 142' 3". By the time 1928 rolled around, he had improved so sharply that he was now able to record a throw of 162' 6", which qualified him for the Olympics, along with his brother Con, who was competing in the Decathlon.

Although considered a novice when he left for the 1928 Games, O'Callaghan returned as a hero when a monstrous final round throw of 168' 7" saw him pip Sweden's

Oissian Skoeld to the gold medal by just 4". This tremendous achievement saw the raising of the tricolour and the first rendition of Amhrann na bhFiann at the Olympic Games as an emotional O'Callaghan took to the podium.

In the years between 1928 and 1932, O'Callaghan set about proving to the world that his Olympic gold was no fluke, as he dominated the national championships and even set a European record in 1930.

Los Angeles in 1932 was eventually the scene of O'Callaghan's greatest achievement, but things started badly as a late change in surface left him with the wrong length of spike. A do-or-die throw of 171' 3" gained him entry to the final, and a fortuitous delay allowed him to famously take a hacksaw to his footwear, which enabled him to launch a towering effort of 176' 11" and retain the gold.

Unfortunately for Pat O'Callaghan and Ireland, a political dispute resulted in the Irish declining to send any athletes to Berlin for the 1936 Games. As a result, he was denied the chance to retain his title, even though he was the European record holder and top ranked hammer thrower in the world.

The debacle of the Berlin Olympics was effectively the end of O'Callaghan's career, although it did have a satisfying post script as he smashed the old World record by a full seven feet in Fermoy in 1937.

Following his retirement, he set up a successful private practise in Cork and travelled to every Olympic Games as a spectator up to his death, at the age of 85, in 1991.

### Bob Tisdall

**I**reland's second ever Olympic champion won his 400m hurdle gold medal at the 1932 Los Angeles Games just minutes before Pat O'Callaghan retained his hammer throwing gold, making LA an extremely successful Olympics for the Irish.

What makes Tisdall's achievement all the more remarkable is the fact that the 25 year old Tipperary man was a mere novice running only his 6th 400m hurdle event. Unperturbed, he set a world record time of 51.7 on his way to glory.

At a young age, Tisdall had been tipped for great things as he won a record four events while competing for Cambridge against Oxford. He showed the determination of a champion when he quit a comfortable job during the Depression in order to live in a disused railway carriage and devote his time to training.

He had decided to try out for the Irish Olympic team in early 1932, and wrote to the President of the IOC, General Eoin O'Duffy, asking for permission to compete. O'Duffy invited the young man to a special Olympic trial in Croke Park, where he failed to make the qualifying time in what was his first race at that distance.

O'Duffy was impressed though, and invited Tisdall back to Croke Park for the national championships, where he blitzed the rest of the field by taking the 400m hurdles in record time.

He obviously had buckets of raw talent for his new-found passion, but nobody could have foreseen just how dominant he would be in Los Angeles. After winning his heat, Tisdall attracted the world's attention by equalling the Olympic record time of 52.8 seconds in the semi-finals.

As it was only his fifth ever race, this was a stunning achievement, and he summed his feelings up by saying to himself in possibly the understatement of the year: "Well, you've run in the semi-finals and equalled the Olympic record; Bob, you're really getting the hang of this!"

In a star-studded final featuring four Olympic champions, Tisdall led the field by five metres approaching the final hurdle. "At that moment I experienced a strange feeling of loneliness", he said, "everything was strangely quiet - I began to wonder if the rest of the field had fallen over!"

Disaster nearly struck as he stumbled over that final hurdle, but the lead was so great that even that could not deny him his gold medal. It did, unfortunately, invalidate his world record time (as per the rules at the time), but that hardly mattered to the country's newest hero.

Years later, after this rule was changed, the IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch presented Tisdall with a Waterford crystal rose bowl, etched with the image of him stumbling at the last, to commemorate his achievement.

His passion for athletics never dimmed, and he ran into his 80s, even carrying the Olympic torch at age 93 in Sydney. He died in 2004 at the ripe old age of 97, and will always be remembered as one of the greatest ever Olympians.



### Sonia O'Sullivan

**O**'Sullivan may never have won that elusive Olympic gold, but she was without a doubt the most consistent track performer that this country has ever produced, and a significant figure on the world athletics scene throughout her career.

Born in Cobh in 1969, O'Sullivan's first taste of success came at the age of 17 when she took gold in the Irish Cross Country Championships in 1987. Just three years later she entered the European Championships in Split, finishing a creditable 11th in the 3000m.

If this was impressive, her subsequent performances were jaw-dropping as she collected 1500m gold and 3000m silver at the World Student Games and finished 7th in the World Cross Country Championships, while setting six national records (including five in the space of a whirlwind 11 days) and taking five seconds off the world indoor 5000m record.

She was only 22 when the Barcelona Olympics kicked off, but made a mockery of her tender age as she ran a beautifully judged 3000m, finishing just outside the medals in 4th place.

She bounced back to take the Grand Prix final at the end of the year, and this set her up for the World Championships in 1993, in which she was a clear favourite.

More heartbreak followed however, as she again finished 4th, this time to a triumvirate of unknown Chinese runners. She bounced back to take silver in the 1500m though, and recorded a storming time of 14:45.92 for the 5000m shortly after, which put her 3rd on the all-time list. She finished the year by winning the Grand Prix Final for the 3000m and finishing second in the Mile. 1994 began with O'Sullivan setting a new world record in the 2000m (which still stands today) and a European record at 3000m. She continued to shatter national records and cruised to European championship gold in the 3000m at Helsinki.

The Cobh girl was now the dominant figure in world distance

running, and in 1995 she won 11 of the 12 races she entered at 1500m, and all five of her 3000m events.

She chose to enter the 5000m race at that year's World Championships, and the decision proved to be a sound one as she took home yet another gold medal. She closed out the year by winning her fourth Grand Prix title in a row, and was the undisputed world number 1 entering 1996 and the Atlanta Games.

Unfortunately for the unlucky O'Sullivan, disaster struck in Atlanta as a stomach upset badly affected her, and forced her to drop out of the 5000m final and finish a desperately disappointing second-last in her 1500m heat.

It looked like the end for O'Sullivan as she had an underwhelming year in 1997, but 1998 was to mark a serious turnaround in fortunes for the teak-tough athlete. She first served notice of her return by winning the World Cross Country Championships at both 4k and 8k distances on successive days, before taking gold at the European Championships at both 5000m and 10000m, the latter on her first attempt at the distance!

After the birth of her daughter in 1999, O'Sullivan returned for the 2000 Olympics in Sydney, running a sensational 5000m to take silver and finishing 6th in the 10000m. She then took the 5000m Grand Prix once again, before winning the prestigious Dublin marathon at her first attempt.

O'Sullivan continued to defy her advancing years and claimed two silver medals at the 2002 European Championships, before qualifying for her fourth Olympic Games in 2004.

In her Olympic swansong in Athens, the cursed runner was again cruelly struck down by illness on the eve of the 5000m final. As she trailed in to the finish line, the crowd in Athens rose to greet the athlete with one last hero's ovation, in one of the most poignant and touching scenes of the 2004 Games.

After four Olympic Games and a glittering haul of medals earned all over the world, the image of the warrior from Cobh gracefully leaving the world's best strewn in her wake is one which will remain etched on the consciousness of Irish athletics fans.

### Ronnie Delany

**B**orn on March 6 1935, Ronnie Delany was only 6 years old when he moved to Dublin and began attending Catholic University School.

His athletics career really took off when he moved to the US to study at Villanova University and was taken under the wing of legendary track coach Jumbo Elliot.

Elliot saw the potential Delany had, and encouraged him to enter the 1954 European Championships in Berne, where a promising run from the 19 year old saw him finish 8th in the 800m.

While this was a very impressive performance from a still callow athlete, it was clear that the 1500m was where Delany's real future lay.

This was confirmed in early 1956 when he became only the seventh runner in history to break the four-minute mile, a still magical benchmark at the time.

Ironically, Delany struggled to make the Irish Olympic team for 1956, and was only 21 years old when he competed in the Melbourne Games. He was young to be competing, but he had confidence, talent and belief, and would need every bit of it to compete with the great John Landy.

The Australian Landy, the favourite for the race, was almost unbeatable at the time, but Delany qualified easily for the final and set his sights on gold.

He stuck to Landy like a limpet for the duration of the race, before launching into a searing final sprint at the beginning of the final lap. Landy could not live with the streaking Irishman, and Delany tore away to take gold in Olympic record time, earning the Irish team only the second track medal in their history after Bob Tisdall in 1932.

Delany never again raced in the Olympics, but he secured his legacy as one of the all-time greats by winning four national titles, four successive AAU championships and three NCAA wins to his glittering resume.

He also dominated the indoor events, going on a 40 race winning streak and breaking the indoor mile record on three occasions



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DIT appoints FAI  
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**SAILING**

DIT sailing team to  
head down under

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# Inside Sport

## DIT student has his sight set on London 2012

By Seamus O'Neill

**F**resh from competing at the 2008 World University Championship in Slovakia for DIT is Eamon Rheinisch.

This 21-year-old DIT student is a recipient of an elite Scholarship for his chosen sport - Canoeing Slalom.

Eamon received the scholarship because "I've been paddling for so many years and I've raced in Irish teams.

"The main thing I used the scholarship for this year was to buy a boat. I go through one boat a year and two sets of paddles. A boat can be anything from €1,500 to €2,500."

In his attempt to explain what exactly canoeing slalom is he compares it to that of downhill skiing.

"You start at point A and finish at point B and you have to negotiate a number of gates on the way down. There's between 18 and 22 gates in a set pattern along the course.

"It's usually based on artificial white water courses of which there's a few around the world but none in Ireland yet.

"You're not competing against a direct competitor, you're competing against time," he said.

Juggling both college life and a strict training schedule is difficult for this second year civil engineering

student.

"To train for this sport I do a lot of fitness work on flat water because there's not as much constant and good white water in Ireland.

"I also go running, swimming, and do weights. Between now and December I will be training almost 16 or 17 times a week, before college after college and during the day," he said.

"You couldn't do it if you didn't love it. If you didn't have a passion for the sport it would be impossible," he believes.

Looking at Eamon's schedule you can see why a burning passion for the sport is an absolute must.

**An example of his day would include the following:**

**04.30 am – Up to go swimming.**

**Eat breakfast.**

**05.15 am – In the car.**

**05.45 am – Arrive at the pool.**

**Swim between 2 and 5 kilometres.**

**09.00 am – Lectures in college.**

**13.00 pm – Running in Linen Hall.**

**14.00 pm – Back to college**

**16.00 pm – Head home after college only to go out paddling.**

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Above: Splish splash!

Eamon Rheinisch powers his way through the water and below Eamon hold the Olympic torch from the 2008 Beijing Games.

